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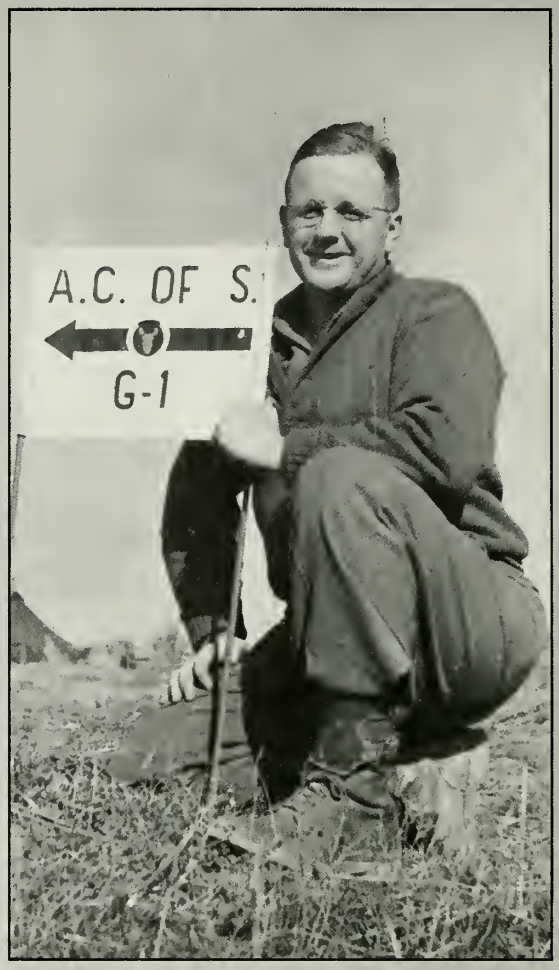

34th Infantryman in Italy, 1944. (Courtesy of Maurice H. Flesher).

Somewhere in the European Countryside 34th Infantrymen relax in behind their artillery gun. (Courtesy of Hubert Carlen).

Enroute to the next place of encampment are members of the 34th in a half track. (Courtesy of David Serikaku)

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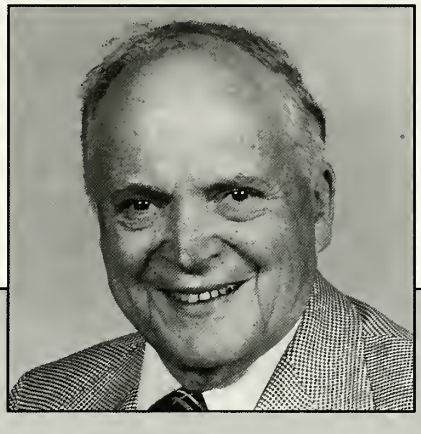
INTRODUCTION



These were the men of the "Silent Generation"-the '40s. They were the G.I. Joes. Many were volunteers and members of the National Guard from Minnesota, IA, the Dakotas and Nebraska. To bring the 34th Inf. Div. up to full strength, it was necessary to bring into the fold, drafted and volunteers from the other states. All these fine young men were the most admirable element of mankind...the exemplary people...they were not professional soldiers...but they were the ones singled out to do their assigned jobs, and a lot more, to protect America from the evil dictators then rampant in Europe and Asia. There was a sense of togetherness in the 40's when these men came of age during the Great Depression...Living through those unfortunate times, perhaps instilled in them, will and strength of character, a high degree of responsibility, a deep feeling of patriotism, determination, integrity, unselfishness, dedication (always determined to reach their objective) and a serene satisfaction of accomplishment. They were brave men, heroes, and yet, very gentle men. These were the famous "Red Bulls" of the 34th Inf. Div.

Through experience, these combat infantrymen had a stoic aura, a comraderie, a mystique among their companions, an unexplainable closeness unknown to anyone not in combat. The efficiency and value of the trained rifleman in combat is outstanding. These combat men share a special bond...always ready...willing to respond automatically...even today after 45 years since they were in action. The buddy system never failed and it will always remain...it is built-in, now part of their soul. Combat infantrymen show grace under pressure, even though their lives were in constant danger and a gut wrenching atmosphere. Countless times, brave men lay down their lives, so that others may live. Little did they know that the brutal lessons learned through the face of terror and stinging cold of fear and pain at Kasserine, would eventually prepare them for the carnage and horror at Cassino and Anzio. They were which others did not want to be and went where others feared to go. They were the mudsluggers...they were the dogfaces.

The Red Bulls, with more combat days in WW II than any other division, served under the capable leadership of two fine, brave generals...Major Gen. Charles W. Ryder, Commander through the North African and Italian Campaigns until July 20, 1944...and Maj. Gen. Charles L. Bolte, Commander from July 21, 1944 during the Italian Campaign until the end of the war.

As our combat veterans grow older, we realize that this "Silent G.I. Joe Generation" is winding down and if it wasn't for them, perhaps America wouldn't be enjoying its freedom today.

Many fine books have been written about our famous 34th Red Bull Division, but this book is of a different nature. One that everyone, who could be contacted, was given the opportunity to be recorded in time with their biographies and photos, to leave as a treasure to their families, to keep and cherish for future generations to behold.

This book is dedicated to all those buddies and comrades who made the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives for the defense of America; to those great soldiers who are still suffering from their combat wounds: to those combat infantrymen we lost to Our Maker since the war; and to those living and more fortunate buddies who will carry on the memories, forever friendship and mystic ties that only combat veterans can understand, and experience only through the baptism of fire in combat. May God continue to shed his blessings wherever you are.

Reg Clark
Sgt.-Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 135th Inf.
34th Inf. Division WW II

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The history of the 34th Inf. Div. is a composite product of many thousand conscientious and brave men, who, almost half a century ago, performed in a manner excelled by none.

Thus it is appropriate to commend each and every one of them for their individual contributions to this important chapter in American history. Special tribute is paid to those who fell on the fields of battle in Africa and Italy. Their voices still echo across the chasm of time and, in our memory, their faces never grow old.

Those of us who survived and lived to enjoy the fruits of our victory bear the great responsibility of keeping our country free and strong. A good knowledge of history is an essential in this task.

In consonance with this mission some persons are singled out for special recognition in the preparation of this book. They are:

Reginald R. Clark-for his untiring efforts in communicating and promoting participation by everyone in this once in a lifetime venture.

Donald S. Hoagland-President of the 34th Div. Assoc. who originally worked with Mr. Thompson in presenting the proposed book to the membership.

Jim Huyck-for his help in mailing, lists of members, etc.

Charles A. Smith-Mr. Goodwill Ambassador-at-Large for the 34th Div. Assoc. for his able assistance in obtaining information and transmitting it to the proper place. He is also the person who brought the beautiful 34th Div. monument into fruition.

Mark A. Thompson, Publisher, Turner Publishing Company for his creativity, diligence and patience in helping create a biographical history of the men of the 34th Inf. Div.

Lastly, and in large part, thanks are extended to all those who shared of themselves in making this book a valued asset to the history of this outstanding and noted unit.

Ben J. Butler
M.G. Aus. (Ret.)
168th Reg. 1943-45

DEDICATION

On July 4, 1776, there was signed in the City of Philadelphia one of America's historic documents, The Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation which, under God, was destined for world leadership.

We often forget that, in declaring independence from an earthly power, our forefather made a forthright declaration of dependence upon Almighty God. The closing words of this document solemnly declare: 'With a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

This book is dedicated to the men of the great 34th Inf. Div., known as the "Red Bull Div.," with a heritage that is surpassed by none. These men pledged their lives, their fortunes and their honor to preserve our nation. Their efforts helped to conquer the evil nations whose leaders, Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito, would take away our nation's freedoms and place them under a dictator-type government depriving us of the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. By God's grace they performed their duty in such a manner as to allow this great nation to continue to be the world leader it was destined to be.

Dennis F. Neal (Col. Retired)
Chaplain, 34th Inf. Div. Assn.

FOREWORD

Reviewing the history of an infantry division - in this case the 34th "Red Bull" Division - can take many forms, from a surface overview of its operations to highly detailed accounts of every engagement and assignment. I will attempt to reach some middle ground between these two extremes without doing an injustice to the tale by too much of the first or by bogging down in a quagmire of the second. I will note the names of some important men of the 34th, and some other units, but to list the names of all important people of the Division would mean a listing of every last man that wore the Red Bull Patch.

This narrative will concentrate almost exclusively on the exploits of the 34th in World War II (but in fairness to its long history, I will comment briefly on some events that are traceable before this great conflict.) During the review I will make passing notations of events occurring in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) that were unconnected to the operations of the 34th Division specifically, but nevertheless were of significance to the entire Allied war effort. In this way I hope the reader will perceive that the efforts of a single military unit had its place in a much larger and more complex picture.

In a review such as this, space does not allow detailing the many heroic feats of the rifleman. Armor, bombers, fighter planes, and artillery can harass and pound the enemy and reduce his effectiveness and will to fight, and the infantryman's work is made immeasurably easier when these forces are called upon. But in the final analysis it comes down to rifle against rifle, bayonet against bayonet, man against man. It is here in the field, on the mountain slopes, and in the streets where wars are won and lost. This is the story of the "Red Bull" soldier, from his home in America to the foothills of the Italian Alps. His exploits have few equals in American military annals.

Philip A. St. John, Author

The First Minnesota is now carried on by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 135th Infantry, Minnesota National Guard. (Courtesy of U.S. Government Printing Office).

'RED BULL' HISTORY 1859-1945

Part of Company H, 135th Inf. with machine gun 1937. (Courtesy of Lynn L. Dunges)

A tank awaits repairs amid the mud not uncommon in Europe. (Courtesy of Anthony Vella)

The Indian Wars and the War Between the States

In order to appreciate the exploits of the 34th Division in World War II, at least a background knowledge of the roots of this unit seems appropriate. The Division was not simply created as the 34th, all together as a fighting unit, by the stroke of a pen.

Between 1859 and 1864 a number of skirmishes, some bloody and of massacre proportions, were fought with the Sioux, the Ponca, and the Pawnee Indian tribes in Minnesota. These were the so-called Indian Wars. Many men who saw action in these limited but often fierce engagements - virtually all hand to hand combat - would also be combat-tested between 1861 and 1864 in the Civil War. Although it appears that the origins of the 168th Regiment were in Company B, 4th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry which, during the Spanish-American War of 1898-1899, became the 51st Iowa Infantry Regiment. The 1st Regiment Minnesota Volunteers of the Civil War, originally 1000 men, was to become the 13th Regiment during the War with Spain, and can be traced directly from that unit to the 135th Regiment, 34th Division. The 133rd Infantry Regiment appears to have its origins in the 49th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, during the Spanish-American War. The 109th Engineers of the 34th had their beginnings as the 1st South Dakota Infantry, U.S. Volunteers, again during the War with Spain. The parent regiment of the 151st Field Artillery was the Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment in the Civil War.

Space does not permit detailing the many exploits of these forerunners of the 34th Division during the War between the States. But considering the immensity of this great horror in our history, we should record here some brief notes of their activities. Early in the conflict the 1st Minnesota Infantry met disaster at the hands of the Confederate Army at Bull Run and in other battles in Virginia. This is not to say that these defeats cast doubts on the fighting prowess of these men. They fought valiantly in these early engagements against a Southern army that was simply overwhelming in their firepower, their use of percussion shells, land mines, and for the first time, observation balloons. After a string of victories against the best of the Union army, General Lee threatened Washington and the Minnesota riflemen were recalled to its defense. But the crafty Lee, with victories at Antietam, Fredricksburg, and Chancellorsville behind him, bypassed the Capitol and swept his armies through Maryland and into Pennsylvania. There the Union armies stiffened and set the line of engagement on the fields of Gettysburg. The 1st Minnesota Volunteers (who some 80 years later were to become the 135th Regiment, 34th Division) were now to prove themselves. A Confederate attack routed the III Corps of the Union Army. The 1st Minnesota, its ranks by now pared to a scant 260 men, were ordered to stem this onrush of gray uniforms until reinforcement could be brought up to the line. With bayonets fixed the Minnesotans slowed, then stopped the attack of a vastly superior force, and held firm until relief came up from the Union reserves. Of the 260 men that went into battle, 215 lay dead or wounded by the time the reinforcements arrived.

The three-day carnage at Gettysburg was decisive; the Union would survive. The progenitors of the 135th Infantry Regiment had not only proved themselves, but had set the standard for all battles to come.

The 4th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, units of which would later become part of the 168th Regiment, 34th Division, also saw extensive action in this terrible conflict between the States. Its battles took the Regiment to Pea Ridge (Arkansas), Vicksburg, and Jackson, and the final storming and capture of Lookout Mountain. After the capture of Chattanooga the 4th marched with Sherman to Atlanta, Savannah and to the sea. Turning northward, the Regiment fought at Columbia and captured Richmond, finally bringing this bloody strife to an end.

The Spanish American War, The Philippine Insurrection And The Mexican Border War

The War with Spain was a relatively short conflict, lasting from April to December, 1898. It resulted in the liberation of Cuba and the Philippines from Spanish rule. It was followed by a brief insurrection of Filipino soldiers in the Philippine Islands (February and March, 1899) who felt betrayed by the American government for not granting the Islands complete independence following the war.

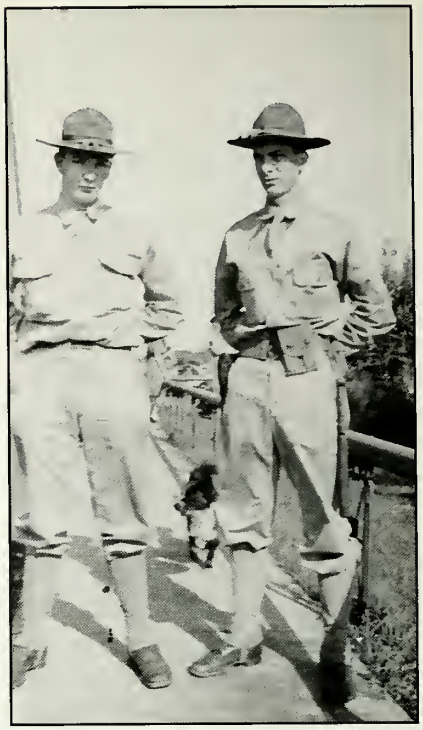
The 49th Iowa Volunteer Infantry (to become the 133rd Infantry Regiment) saw duty in Cuba during the first three months of 1899, after the war had ended the preceding December. Its assignment was to restore and maintain order following the conquest of that island nation. The 13th Regiment Minnesota Volunteers (to become the 135th Infantry Regiment) was sent to the Philippines, arriving at the end of July, 1898. These men participated in the Fall of Manila to the American side, and later saw action in supressing the insurrection on the main island of Luzon.

The 51st Iowa Infantry Regiment (later the 168th Infantry Regiment) also saw action in the Philippines. This unit spent three months at sea between leaving San Francisco and arriving in the Philippines (which must be record length of time for troop transportation), arriving in the islands on Feb. 3, 1899. The war with Spain had ended but the 51st saw immediate action on landing in coping with the insurrection. The unit sustained many casualties in a series of engagements, not to mention the decimating effect of malaria. The 51st Iowa conducted itself with great professionalism under very difficult conditions of weather and battle in the best traditions of the future 34th Division.

In addition to these infantry units, two artillery groups were called to active duty although neither saw action in this conflict with Spain. The 3rd Minnesota Infantry (later, the 125th Field Artillery) was in uniform for only five months (May through September, 1898) and the 185th Field Artillery had a tour of duty lasting just under seven months. Neither unit saw action outside the country.

Finally, the 1st South Dakota Infantry (later to become the 109th Engineers) saw action in both the war with Spain and in the Philippine Insurrection, at Manila and elsewhere in the Philippine Islands.

In June of 1916 President Woodrow Wilson sent troops under the command of General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to the Mexican border area. The American government openly supported the government of Venustiano Carranza whose armies has ousted the dictator, General Heurta. The United States halted the export of arms to Carranza's enemies, among them Francisco "Pancho" Villa, a free-lance pseudo-military bandit. In revenge for the cutoff of arms shipment, Villa raided across the border and killed 12 Americans in New Mexico. Pershing was ordered across the border in a punitive action, hopefully to bring Villa to justice. Villa escaped Pershing's troops, however.



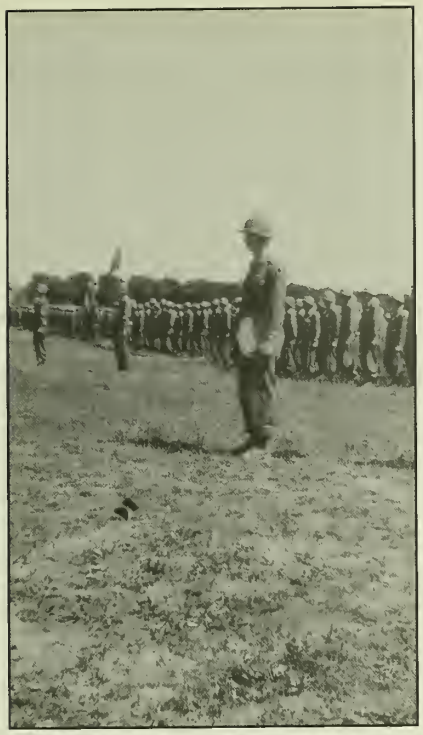
Joseph and James Chatelle at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, 1940. (Courtesy of Joseph Chatelle)

National Guard units from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota were sent to the border and were stationed near Brownsville, Texas, where they performed border patrol duties. They did not accompany Pershing into Mexico and so saw no combat. These men of the future 34th Division underwent extensive training in Texas in addition to their patrol duties and this training was to be an invaluable prelude to a more serious conflict now on the horizon.

Europe had been engulfed in a bloody war since 1914. On one side, were the Central Powers: Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire; and on the other, the Allies: Belgium, France, Great Britian, Russia, and Serbia. Bulgaria later joined the Central Powers and 19 other nations later joined the Allies. These same plainsmen that saw duty along the Rio Grande in Texas were soon to be called again.

The 34th Division in World War I

The units that had been assigned to the Mexican-U.S. border finally returned home between December of 1916, and March of 1917. These last were home barely three weeks when a call came by Presidential Proclamation for troops. It was realized that the United States was danger-



The troops stand at attention for morning inspection. (Courtesy of James P. Ryan)

ously close to being drawn into the conflict in Europe. Congress declared war on the Central Powers on the following April 6, 1917. The men who had so recently returned from Texas responded again. Within a few months these men - now of the 34th Division - arrived in New Mexico for training. And it was here that the insignia of the Division was adopted. At first the insignia was a white bovine skull against a black Mexican water jug. The color of the skull was later changed to red, hence the "Red Bull" which was to identify the 34th in wars yet to come.

These men of the North Central plains underwent extensive and intensive training in the sandstorm environment of New Mexico. (The 34th was known at this time as the "Sandstorm" Division). Twelve months of battling the elements of the American Southwest hardened the Division into a tough, battle-ready infantry force.

But most of the men of the 34th were to be disappointed, if it was combat duty they wanted. The Division shipped overseas, arriving in France during the first three weeks of October, 1918. But combat as a Division was not to be their lot, for the 34th was used as a replacement pool and the Division as an organized unit virtually disappeared.

Two units of the 34th, however, need special mention here. The 168th Infantry Regiment and the 151st Field Artillery were reassigned as intact units to serve with the famous 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division.

The military record of this Division was an outstanding one in World War I, and the two units of the 34th serving with the 42nd played no small part in that record. Both the 168th and the 151st saw heroic action at places whose names are now legendary: Lorraine, Chateau Thierry, and the Argonne, to name but a few. These men carried the banner of the 34th in their hearts, if not on a staff.

So these are the early days of the 34th Infantry Division and its predecessors, from the Indian Wars of the 1850s, through the War between the States, the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, to the bloody fields of France in 1918, a record of some 70 years. They were always among the first to answer a call for help by their Country, but World War I would not be their last response to the colors. These brave men returned home in 1919, to maintain and keep active the National Guard units from which they came. These "citizen soldiers" were to be the muscle and bone of an army which was to be needed some 22 years later, when the clouds of war darkened Europe again. But this time, the conflict was to be on a global scale, unlike anything seen before or since.

World War II Beginnings.

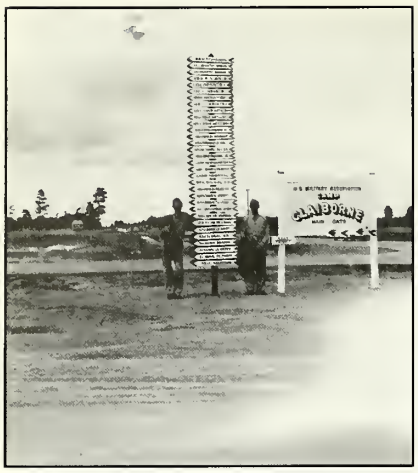
Historians generally agree that the second World War began with the German invasion of Poland in 1939, and ended in Europe with Germany's surrender in May, 1945, and in Asia with Japan's surrender the following September. This global conflict overshadowed all others on record in its sheer magnitude. More than 16 million military men on the two sides were killed due to direct action, and at least another 10 million were known wounded although the exact number may never be known; it may be two or even three times that figure. At least 5 million more persons are officially listed as "missing"; this figure, too, is a conservative one. This War introduced the Atomic Age and brought other sweeping changes in the methods of waging war. The dozen or so bombers assigned to a ground target in World War I were replaced by 1,000 plane strikes in World War II; the dozen or so tanks on the battlefield grew to hundreds in this War; army, navy, and air force units worked like one in split-second timing to support amphibious assaults; paratroopers and equipment by the thousands of tons were dropped by parachute or landed in gliders behind enemy lines. Fifty-six nations took part in World War II at an estimated cost of over one trillion dollars.

The interim between the two World Wars, from 1918 to 1939, saw great social change in the world. This was the period when dictators seized power in great nations: Russia under Communism, Italy under Fascism, Germany under Nazism, and Japan under Militarism. This later Asian nation invaded Manchuria in 1931, and China in 1932 (later withdrawing). Some historians consider the Japanese invasion of the Manchuria as the beginning of World War II. A second invasion of the Chinese mainland by Japan in 1937 spread over all of eastern China and by January, 1940, Japan controlled all of China's major ports, industrial centers, and communication lines. No one came to China's aid; in fact, most nations continued selling arms to Japan.

In 1935 Italian troops swept into Ethiopia, conquering this poorly equipped African nation in 1936. The Civil War in Spain broke out in this same year and Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini sent men and arms to Francisco Franco's rebels. Russia sent aid to the Loyalist side in Spain. In a real sense, Spain was a testing ground for a new weapons and tactics to be used very soon in Eastern Europe. Franco's forces prevailed in 1939 and he became an absolute dictator. Spain was not involved itself in World War II, however.

Ignoring the Versailles Treaty of World War I, Hitler began military conscription of German men in 1935, began building a submarine force and an air force. He sent troops west of the Rhine River in violation of the Treaty and in March of 1938 German troops marched in Austria. In September he annexed the Sudeten area of Czeckoslovakia (which contained a large population of German-speaking Czecks) and by March of 1939 occupied all of that country. Hitler then seized territory in Lithuania on the Baltic Sea, and Mussolini sent Italian troops into Albania, occupying that small country. Germany then scrapped a treaty of friendship with Poland and signed a non-aggression pact with Russia in August of 1939. The stage was not set; in hardly over seven years Hitler has amassed an enormous ground fighting force, a huge air force, and a submarine force that had no equal. On September 1, 1939, German troops and armor smashed across the Polish border. The appeasement policies of France and Great Britian had failed to preserve the peace in Europe. Hitler ignored an order by

The 34th takes time to clean the 155 Howitzer gun in rest camp. (Courtesy of Waldon H. Johnson)



The main gate on the East side of Claiborne Camp. Each arrow points to a different regiment. (Courtesy of Elmer H. Stock)

France and Great Britian to withdraw from Poland, and on September 3, 1939, these two allies of former battles declared war on Germany.

The 34th Division in World War II

With the onset of war in Europe the United States was alerted that its peaceful, isolated life in North America would soon be changed. Isolationists argued that the war in Europe was no concern of the United States, but the interventionists wanted America to take immediate action to aid the Allies. The government in Washington took an intermediate stand, but closer to that of the Interventionists. It sold war materials to the Allies in Europe and in March of 1941 President Roosevelt declared the United States should be the "arsenal of democracy" and a lend-lease bill was passed by Congress. Under the provisions of this bill, war materials could be shipped to the Allies legally. Ships, planes, and equipment of all kinds, totalling some 50 billion dollars in value, were sent to the Allies over the following four years.

The United States, realizing the small size and vulnerability of its armed forces, passed the Selective Training and Service Act into law on September 16, 1940. In 1939 at the outbreak of war in Europe, America had a total of less than 360,000 men in its fighting forces (army, navy, air corps, marines, and coast guard). At its peak in 1945, 12,450,000 men were under arms in addition to the more than 150,000 volunteer women that were in uniform.

Basic Training at Camp Claiborne

The 34th Infantry Division, after numerous false alerts from October, 1940, was inducted into Federal Service on February 10, 1941. They were to undergo training for a period of one year as prescribed by law. (Remember "Good-Bye Dear, I'll Be Back in a Year" - a popular tune of these early days?) The men forming up the Division were drawn from four States: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. By the close of hostilities in 1945 the 34th was made up of men from every corner of the Nation. By war's end only about twenty percent of the Division could claim one of these four States as home.

In March of 1941 the Division received orders to proceed south for basic training. Their destination was Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, about 20 miles south of Alexandria. The Camp was still under construction when these "citizen soldiers" arrived from the north by train and truck convoys. Anticipating a warm southern clime, these northerners were greeted instead by bone-chilling winds, constant rains, and a Camp that was a sea of mud. But life was made reasonably comfortable when the men discovered gas heaters and warm blankets in their tents, in addition to generally good food, movies, and other entertainment. Many would remember and yearn for these amenities, later in North Africa and Italy.

For the next month the Division learned the "army way." Drilling, classes, intensive field exercises, and housekeeping, worked the men sixteen to eighteen hours a day. By mid April the 34th was beginning to look and act like a highly disciplined fighting unit. The June maneuvers pitted the 34th against the 32nd Infantry Division. Both learned valuable lessons in tactics and the movement of troops and material. Then more training in the stifling heat of mid-summer Louisiana - and the perpetual rains. Then the Fall maneuvers, perhaps the most extensive peacetime military operation in the Nation's history. One million men, divided into two armies, "fought" each other over the length and breadth of Louisiana and parts of eastern Texas. Again, many lessons were learned that were to be critical to survival later on. The men of the 34th learned to live off the land and to guard their health and alertness under harsh conditions. After the maneuvers, the Division returned to Claiborne hardened and ready. In June of 1941 Axis forces had invaded Russia, and Japan was continuing its conquest of eastern China and southeast Asia. The men of the 34th had ominous sense that it was only a matter of time before their lessons would be put to the test. The time arrived on December 7, 1941 when a 33-ship Japanese strike force approached within 200 miles of the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, and sent 360 airplanes to bomb the base. The attack sunk or severely damaged 18 American ships, destroyed 170 planes, and resulted in 3,700 American casualties. The next day the United States declared war on Japan and on December 11, declared war on Germany and Italy. The greatest fears of the American people had come to pass; it was now fully engaged in World War II as a combatant.

The 34th Ships Overseas

Following America's entry into the War, Camp Claiborne became a scene of feverish excitement - and confusion. The order came down for all men to report to their unit commands; arms, ammunition, and field equipment were issued and put in order. Units of the 34th were ordered to duty guarding a variety of military installations in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. We did not know what to expect in those days following Pearl Harbor, but no one was taking any chances. Then, hardly having arrived at their new posts, the Division was recalled to Claiborne and in the first week of January of the new year the 34th shipped out to Fort Dix, New Jersey. Because of the Division's advanced state of training it was chosen as the first unit to be sent overseas. Claiborne was a paradise compared to Dix. The men arrived in below zero temperatures, tried to sleep in torn and tattered tents without heat or light. Blankets were at a premium. It has been said before: Ft. Dix was a reflection of America itself - totally unprepared for war.

It was at Dix that some of the North Dakota and South Dakota contingents of the 34th were split out of the Division; they were to go to the South Pacific. Some units of the Division had to put up with the total confusion of Ft. Dix for only about a week; other units until the middle of February; and still others until the end of April. The Division was shipped overseas in these months, in three waves; the destination for all: Ireland. The passage of the first units took 11 days, from January 15 to January 26 when the ship (the British H.M.T.S. "Strathaird") docked at Belfast harbor. The trip across the Atlantic was a tortuous route, in total darkness at night to avoid detection by the German submarine "wolf-packs" that were roaming the ocean with little restraint.

The 135th Inf. Regiment on maneuvers at Camp Claiborne, La. (Courtesy of David Serikaku)

These infantrymen take a break from maneuvers. (Courtesy of David Serikaku)

Target practice at Camp Claiborne, La. (Courtesy of David Serikaku)

Rest and relaxation during maneuvers at Camp Claiborne, La. (Courtesy of David Serikaku)

By the beginning of May, 1942, the entire Division was in Ulster, Northern Ireland.

The people of Belfast already had felt the might of the German luftwaffe. Two raids had virtually leveled some 30 blocks of the city. Everything was rationed; food, clothing, gasoline (many vehicles were fueled by natural gas, filling huge bags strapped to the top of the car or truck).

The Division began immediate and intensive training again. At this time the 34th was under the command of Major General Russell P. Hartle. In June of 1942 General Hartle relinquished command of the Division to Major Charles W. Ryder. The 1st Armored Division arrived and it was to be the mobile steel arm of the 34th through the entire war. In June of 1942 a unit called the First Rangers was formed. Eighty percent of the Rangers were drawn from the ranks of the 34th Division. The 1st Ranger Battalion was to be the first American counterpart of the British Commandos, and they were sent to Scotland to train under battle-tested Scots and Englishmen. The war record of the 1st Rangers have few parallels as attested by their heroism in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France.

At this time the 168th Infantry and the 175th Field Artillery were sent to Scotland for combat training patterned after training of the 1st Rangers. This unit was to be America's Commandos and they were to be tested and proved in North Africa. During these late winter and early spring months in Ireland, the Division trained hard, side by side with the 1st Armored Division. The weather was chilly, the winds penetrated through combat clothes, and there was perpetual fog and drizzle. The country was dotted with jagged hills, wide stretches of moors, and peat bogs, and the men soon conquered the difficulties of cross-country mass movement which was to be their daily life under combat. It should be said here that the Irish people received these foreign "invaders" with open arms; their hospitality was extended to every man in the Division.

The 34th and the Invasion of North Africa

By early Fall of 1942 the arduous training of the 34th was coming to a close and it soon became known that the invasion and liberation of North Africa was to be the Division's first test in combat. The decision to open a new front - in part to relieve the pressure of the German invasion of Russia - was arrived at early in the year by Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt in Washington. Three major amphibious landings were planned: The Western Assault Force was to land on a broad area centered on Casablanca, Morocco, on the Atlantic coast; The Central Assault Force was to be put ashore at Oran, in western Algeria; and the Eastern Assault Force was to attack Algiers, on the central coast of Algeria. These three assaults were timed to be simultaneous in the early morning hours of November 8, 1942. Major General Ryder of the 34th commanded the Eastern Assault Force which included the 168th Regiment, the 175th Field Artillery, the 109th Engineers, and the 109th Medical Battalion. British units included the 78th Division and the VI Commandos.

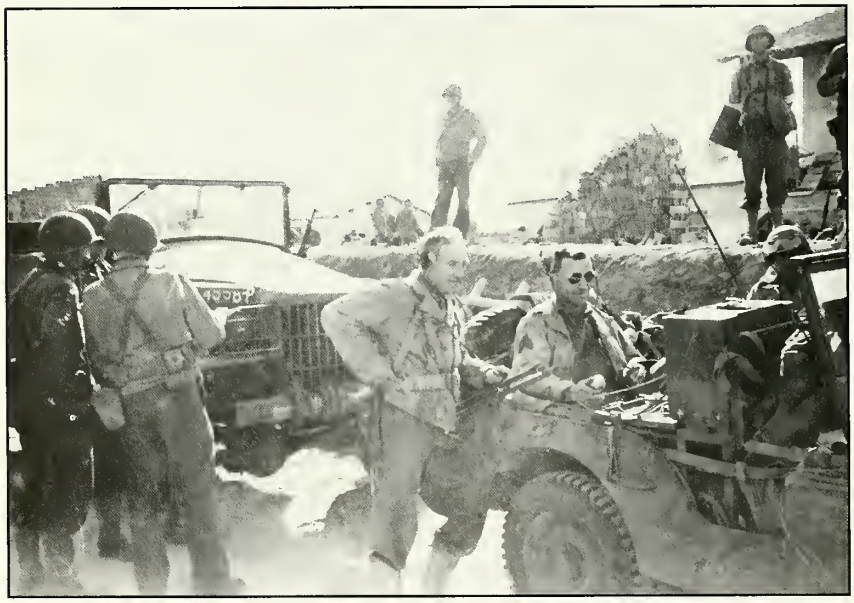
Although we will trace here primarily the involvement of the Eastern Assault Force it should be noted that the sea operations were in large part those of the British, and British infantry, artillery and commando units played a decisive role in the great land battles to come. The armada that converged of Africa was of a magnitude never before seen in the history of warfare. The offensive was code-named operation "Torch." The first convoy left the British Isles on October 22 and within four days all the troopships were underway toward the Gibraltar entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. Those American forces which were to hit Casablanca sailed directly from the United States. This armada of some 650 ships of all kinds made it successfully across the Atlantic and south from England to Gibraltar, for the German and Italian submarine fleet of about fourty boats had been led to believe that the attacks would be made at Dakar, and so were well south of the Azores. The British contingent passed through the Straits of Gibraltar on the night of November the 5th, undetected. The floatilla was finally spotted on November 7th and one troopship, the USS Stone, was torpedoed (probably by a submarine). All troops were able to get off the sinking ship and were later rescued by heroic efforts of British naval units. But the Germans were now too late; Operation Torch would be carried out on schedule. Early on the morning of November 8th all three Assault Forces struck their primary targets. North of Casablanca one of the American landing parties met stiff resistance from Vichy French units. A fierce sea battle then ensued; the French Fleet put to sea and met the full force of the American naval units that had escorted the troopships across the Atlantic. Seven French ships and three submarines were destroyed with many casualties. The defending French surrendered on the morning of November 11, 1942. The Western Assault Force had carried out its assignment decisively and with lightning speed.

At Oran, 450 miles eastward from Casablanca the main landing was made at 1 A.M. on November 8th and two secondary landings were made to the west of the city. Vichy French forces opposed these landings fiercely. American paratroopers were dropped behind Oran and, not without mishap for their force had become dispersed in their flight from England, eventually succeeded in securing Oran's airport. Two British ships, former American coast guard cutters transferred to Bri-

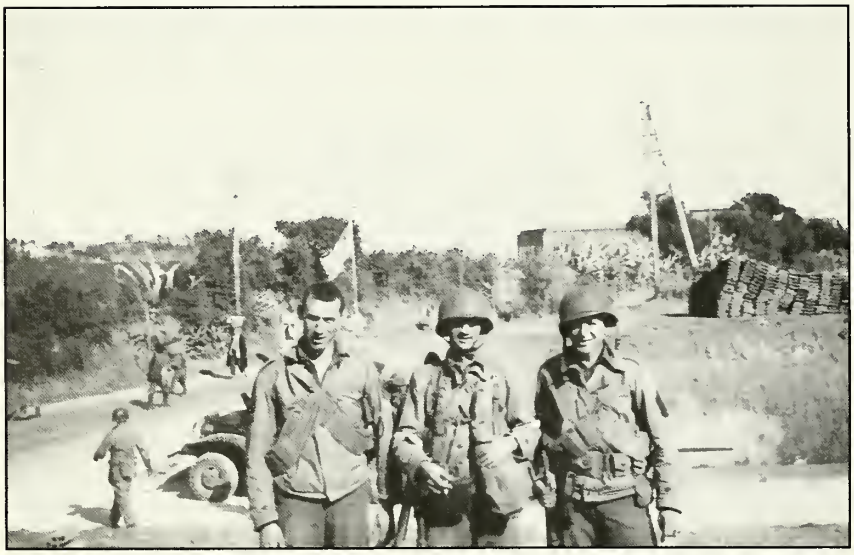
tian under Lend-Lease, attempted to land technicians in Oran harbor to secure and protect the installation from destruction by the French. The two ships met a wall of murderous fire at point-blank range by French shore batteries. Both ships were destroyed with most of their human cargo. The British navy quickly cleared out the shore batteries by their bombardment, and swept the local area clean of French destroyers and submarines. On the morning of the 10th, 48 hours after the initial landings, American forces ashore launched their final attack on Oran, and by mid-day the French defending forces surrendered.

At Algiers, every ship - except the USS Stone - arrived about eight miles off the harbor at 1 A.M. on November 8th. Landings were scheduled at four beaches, east and west of the port. Two beaches were attacked by British troops who met light resistance in the push inland toward Algiers. A third beach was stormed by the 39th Infantry Combat Team along with a contingent of British commandos; they also met little resistance in capturing the airfield about ten miles southeast of Algiers. A fourth beach ("Beer Beach") was attacked by the units of the 168th Combat Team with elements of the British 1st and 6th Commandos attached. The first wave landed without incident, but subsequent forces missed the landing point by some 17 miles. As it turned out, this was not a serious error for they were soon to join their comrades. By that afternoon the 168th, in full force, had occupied the heights overlooking Algiers.

We should now relate an unfortunate but heroic incident in these Algiers landings. The 3rd Battalion of the 135th Infantry, Lt. Col. Edwin T. Swenson commanding, was being transported by the British destroyers "Malcolm" and "Broke". Their assignment was to put this battalion ashore in Algiers harbor which they were to capture and secure against possible sabotage of the ships that may be in port at the time. It was known to be a difficult task from the beginning, but there was evidence that the French might not resist the landings - in fact they might assist the assaulting troops. As it turned out, this intelligence proved to be faulty at best. Both ships approached the harbor in complete darkness, both missing the harbor entrance which was guarded by a protective boom jutting out from a mole or jetty. As the destroyers approached the jetty, French batteries opened up pouring a murderous fire on the two ships. Both turned seaward for another run at the entrance; the "Malcolm" tried but missed the boom again as both ships absorbed punishment from the shore batteries. On a third attempt at the boom the "Malcom" received several direct hits and a fire broke out amidship. She was disabled and could fight no longer so her captain was forced to take his ship and the troops aboard her out to sea. The "Broke" then made her third attempt at cracking the boom, and failed again. By this time dawn was breaking and the ship became an easily visible target - at point blank range - for the French gunners. The "Broke" made one more attempt at entering the harbor. At nearly flank speed she struck the boom squarely and it snapped. The "Broke" was in the harbor! Immediately machine gun fire from other docked vessels raked the "Broke." She returned fire and silenced them all.



Brig. Gen. John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniels talks to one of his commanders in Algiers, N. Africa (Courtesy of Phil Mogg)



M/Sgt. Phillips, Lt. Moschel and T/Sgt. Hawn at C.P. 168th Inf. on 9 Nov. 1942. (Courtesy of Phil Mogg)

The troops on the "Broke" - only part of the battalion - scrambled ashore as the ship docked along side a quay. These well-trained troops proceeded immediately to their assigned positions on shore, all the while taking small arms fire from Sengalese snipers in the city itself. The "Broke" then absorbed six direct hits from the shore batteries which knocked out all radio communication with the troops. She signaled that she was withdrawing and the 3rd Battalion's means of escape - if necessary - was lost. The "Broke" sank at sea the next day.

With escape by sea no longer possible, the 3rd quickly organized the defense of their beachhead. Air strikes were called in and soon Allied planes scored direct hits on all the French artillery batteries, save one.

Lt. Col Swensen felt he could hold out for a short time until troops from the other landings could reach his position. They never came. Then several French light tanks, five in all, arrived at the harbor and systematically started cutting the battalion to pieces with 37mm machine gun fire. There was no escape. The motto of the Regiment: "TO THE LAST MAN", must have flashed across the minds of these brave men. The 3rd fought to their last round of ammunition and then - to avoid a useless slaughter - surrendered to the French defenders. The wounded were taken immediately to hospitals in the city. The captured troops were treated well by the French, and they were released within 48 hours when the city of Algiers surrendered on November 10, 1942.

On November 22, less than two weeks after the fall of Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers to Allied forces, the French scuttled their fleet in Tulon harbor on the French Mediterranean coast, rather than allow it to fall into German hands. The Germans had now occupied all of France and were surrounding the naval base at Tulon. Ten cruisers, 28 destroyers, and 14 submarines were sent to the bottom. General Eisenhower wished desperately to save these ships for Allied use but the French vacillated in their loyalties between the Allies and the government at Vichy. When German troops surrounded the naval base at Tulon, it was too late to save the fleet. At least the ships did not fall into Axis hands intact. The amphibious assault phase of Torch was, in the last analysis, a brilliant success, achieved at a relatively low cost in material and casualties when one considers the enormity of the operation.

The 34th Moves To Tunisia

Units of the 34th saw almost immediate action after the fall of Algiers.

On November 15th, barely five days after the

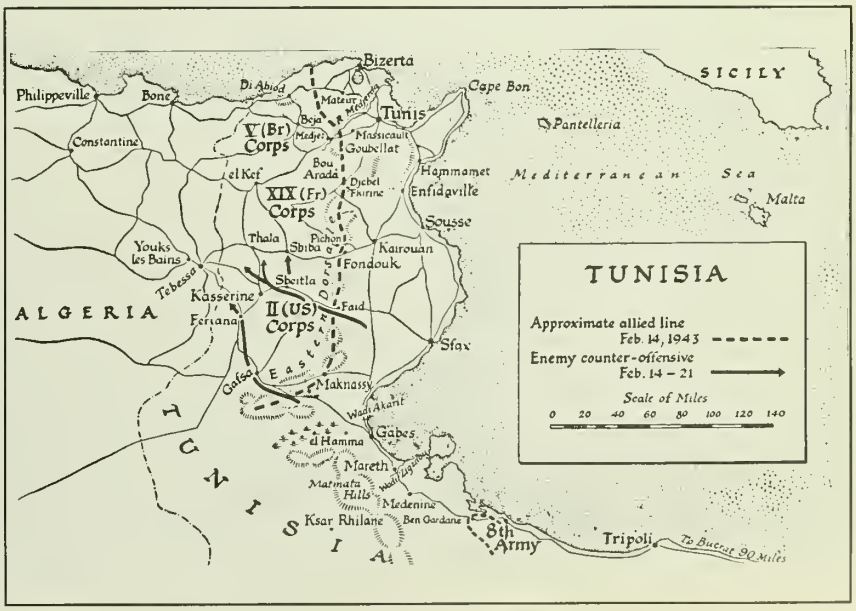
Gen. Eisenhower decorates men of the 168th Inf. at 168th HQ on 1 Dec. 1942 near Algiers, N. Africa. (Courtesy of Phil Mogg)

city was secured, the 175th Field Artillery Battalion was detached from the 168th and sent to Tunisia, 300 miles to the east. They went into action on the 17th at Medjez in northern Tunisia, repelling a German-Italian infantry and tank attack. This detached force was the beginning of an unfortunate splitting up of the Regiment. Some Division troops were attached to No. 1 and No. 6 Commandos and were sent into action in another part of Tunisia; the 2nd Battalion, 168th Regiment, was attached to the 12th Air Force at Tebessa about ten miles west of th Tunisia - Algeria border; the anti-tank company of the 168th was sent to Biskra, a French outpost; the 1st Battalion, 168th, was ordered to Constantine, about 90 miles west of the Tunisian border, to guard lines of communication to the front; and finally, some two and one-half months after the landings in North Africa, the remainder of the 168th was sent to the Gafsa-Sbeitla area in central Tunisia, under the command of the 1st Armored Division. So, by the end of January, 1943, the Regiment was scattered into a number of small units at various places in Algeria and Tunisia.

On January 3rd the remainder of the 34th Division which had been left behind in Ireland arrived in Oran and regrouped at Tlemcen, 90 miles southwest of Oran. The 3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry, stationed in Algiers, joined these new arrivals. After several weeks of rigorous training at Tlemcen these units were ordered, at the end of January, 1943, to the Maktar region in north central Tunisia, to relieve elements of the 1st U.S. Infantry Division. During this time, some units of the 168th and the 175th Field Artillery Battalion were already in contact with the enemy in a kind of plains-type, "Indian" warfare.

The 168th Commando, Captain Mark Martin commanding, made a lightning strike deep into Tunisia to the outskirts of Bizerte, late in November. They repelled a much larger force of German troops that tried to storm the hill occupied by our men. Eventually the commandos withdrew, facing overwhelming firepower, to the British-American lines to the west. But they had tested the strength of the enemy and we now knew what we would be up against when the order came for an all-out offensive.

On November 18, 1942, the 175th Field Artillery, Col. Joseph E. Kelly commanding, was positioned at Medjez about 35 miles west of Tunis. French forces were in front of the Battalion, but these forces were unreliable for they had not yet decided whether to join with the Germans or the Allies. On the morning of the 19th the French rejected a second German ultimatum, and so cast their lot with the Allies. German infantry, supported by tanks and dive bombers, attacked the French positions immediately. The French line broke. Expected British reinforcements did not arrive and a general withdrawal was ordered. The 175th poured a withering rain of shells on the advancing enemy infantry, slowing their thrust to allow an orderly retreat. Enemy strength in northern Tunisia was confirmed again, and he was getting stronger by the day as fresh troops and supplies poured into Bizerte and Tunis from German-held Europe. Five days later the 175th, in support of regrouped British and French infantry, launched an attack on Medjez. The Battalion pounded enemy tanks and gun positions. These gunners were now seasoned fighters and their aim, through experience, was deadly. On the afternoon on November 25th, 1942, Medjez and its important bridge fell to the infantry. We have already noted that the 1st Battalion of the 168th was in Constantine on guard patrols, and late in January, 1943, this unit was ordered to the Gafsa-Sbeitla area in central Tunisia, under the command of the 1st Armored Division. Also at this time, those troops that were still at Tlemcen, near Oran, were ordered to the Maktar area in northern Tunisia. Col. Thomas E. Drake assumed command of the 168th in late January and the Regiment, along with the 175th Field Artillery, joined its 1st Battalion at Gafsa, now all under the general command of the 1st Armored Division. So at this time, as we have noted before, the 34th was



still split up, with units at a variety of places in Tunisia and Algeria.

First Action of the 168th Regiment at Sened

On January 31, 1943, the 168th saw its baptism of fire. Col. Drake received orders to capture a group of buildings called Sened Station, through which ran a railroad. Sened lies about 50 miles east of Gafsa and about 30 miles westward from the Mediterranean coast. More importantly, the 168th was to stop the northward advance of Rommel's Panzers and infantry. The 175th Field Artillery was placed in support of the 168th. The American force was detected by forward elements of German patrols and on the night of the 31st the Regiment took a murderous pounding by the Luftwaffe. The Regiment was ordered to the attack on February 1. The 175th laid down a saturation barrage just before the advance. Under a withering enemy fire from machine guns, mortars and tanks, the 168th was stopped in its tracks. Then, Col. Drake in a display of courage and leadership that was so characteristic of him, walked with confident abandon toward the enemy line directly in the face of a hail of German bullets and shells. His troops, not to be outdone by one man, charged the enemy infantry and tanks, firing and hurling grenades at anything that moved. This sudden attack so surprised the Germans that their tanks closed down their top hatches and retreated. Their infantry followed, narrowly escaping encirclement by a company of the 168th that had curled around the German left flank and came in with all guns working. Sened Station was ours and the 168th had proved its worth in its first encounter with the enemy.

Bone-tired and battered by this short but fierce battle the troops hoped for a little rest - just a day or so - but they were ordered to press on toward Sfax, a coastal city about 30 miles east. They reached the heights overlooking the port on February 2nd, all the while absorbing fire from enemy tanks, artillery, and the German Air Force which controlled the skies. Then, on February 4th, reinforced enemy infantry and tanks struck back, threatening the 168th with encirclement. At 1700 hours Col. Drake was ordered back to the Gafsa area which was reached successfully. The 168th had suffered 20% casualties in its 1st Battalion from these engagements. It should be noted here that the 168th had pushed deep into enemy territory, leaving a long supply line behind, and their ranks thinned and not up to full strength (the 3rd Battalion was still in Algiers). They had engaged an enemy that was far superior in fire power, had short supply lines, and who had control of the air. But the 168th stood up well.

Disaster At Faid Pass

On February 7th Col. Drake was ordered to move his Regiment northeast some 60 miles to a cut through the north-south chain of mountains that runs through the middle of Tunisia. The place was called Faid Pass and through it ran the main road from coastal Sfax to Sbeitla 110 miles inland. Col. Drake was now placed in command of all infantry around Faid which, in addition to the 3rd Battalion which had now joined the 168th from Algiers, included a unit of the 109th Engineers, a tank destroyer unit from the 9th Infantry, a cannon company from the 39th Infantry, and the 17th Field Artillery. The 1st Battalion of the 168th was in reserve for a few days but was then sent westward to Tebessa in Algeria.

There also arrived at this time 450 replacements many of whom had never fired a rifle, without entrenchment tools, without arms, and weighed down with barracks bags filled with generally useless items. Everything but infantrymen which was the greatest need.

Taking a break was a necessary part of combat, although it may not have come often enough. (Courtesy of John Hafer)

On the morning of February 14th, more than 80 Panzer tanks attacked the 2nd Battalion from the north and east. A small group of American tanks went out to meet this force and were immediately overwhelmed, losing seven tanks and several anti-tank guns. The terrain was mostly open and the forward units of our infantry were literally crushed in the path of the on-coming armor. The air was filled with Stuka dive bombers which dropped their lethal loads and then made low level strafing runs on the infantry who could find no cover. Then enemy was now encircling the 168th and Col. Drake ordered his troops to take a hill about a mile away as a last ditch defensive position. The last telephone message received by the Colonel before the wire was cut said that all artillery support was being withdrawn but that he should hold fast. The 109th Engineers quickly mined the approaches to the hill, and for the next two days the best of the German infantry and tanks attacked the 950 men holding the hill, one third of whom were unarmed. By February 16th, all of the cannons and artillery of the 168th were silenced. Col. Drake pleaded for air support, reinforcements, ammunition and rations. None of these arrived. The situation was now desperate; the men hadn't eaten for three days, ammunition was running out, and the Regiment was systematically being cut to pieces by German 88's, 75's and the Stukas. The 2nd and 3rd Battalion, 168th, were now ordered to withdraw westward as best they could; Col. Drake led the 2nd Battalion in its retreat. All serviceable equipment was destroyed or disabled. The battered men of the 2nd Battalion covered a distance of 25 miles on the night of February 16 over open ground, virtually without cover. The German Panzers, having broken through all defenses, caught some of these men and many other small groups of stragglers that were trying to escape through enemy positions. Col. Drake was forced to surrender; he had nothing left to fight with. In small groups, the remainder of the 2nd Battalion that had split off from Col. Drake's group fought their way westward through enemy positions in a continuing series of fire fights. Remnants of the Battalions reached Sbeitla, 40 miles from Faid Pass. Of 800 men, 432 made it back to friendly lines.

The 3rd Battalion was the last to withdraw from the massacre at Faid Pass. For four days scattered units of this Battalion fought through enemy positions, but they were cut to shreds by the German tanks that roamed at will over the country side. The entire Battalion simply disappeared save one officer and two infantrymen who staggered in on February 20. The Faid Pass debacle was the first and last time the 168th was ever forced to retreat before the enemy in the entire war. The losses to the 34th Division were staggering: 155 men killed, wounded or missing at Sened, and 1628 killed, wounded missing or captured at Faid Pass. The 34th would remember these casualties; they would be avenged.

With the breakthrough at Faid, Rommel's Africa Corps now thrust north toward Sbiba and west toward the Kasserine Pass about 40 miles from Faid. At this time the 133 and 135th Infantry Regiments were in position at Pichon, about 40 miles north of Faid. On February 17 the 21st Panzer Division, breaking through Faid, hit the 3rd Battalion of the 133rd which had dug in, anticipating the attack. We were ready this time. A rain of fire stopped the German attack, destroying one tank and two other armored vehicles, forcing the enemy to withdraw. The 133rd and 135th

Regiments were then ordered to withdraw westward to Sbiba, about 30 miles, fearing an encirclement from the south by another column of enemy tanks. The 30 miles was a hit and run gun battle between the two regiments and the enemy tank thrust. On February 18 the two Regiments had dug in near Sbiba and soon took the brunt of another tank attack. This time our artillery opened on the tanks and infantry with murderous effect, repelling the attack. But this position became untenable as it was reported that German tanks were pouring through Kasserine Pass to the southwest in an attempt to encircle the entire Division. On February 22nd the Division was ordered to pull back, regroup, and make a stand at a more defensible position. Then, on February 23rd, reconnaissance showed that the Panzer Divisions had withdrawn from Kasserine. This was inexplicable. Perhaps the enemy supply lines were getting too long or he was low on ammunition or fuel, but the westward thrust of the Panzer Divisions ended at Kasserine.

Fondouk Pass - First Major Offensive of the 34th

During the closing days of February, 1943, a battalion of the 135th supported by tanks and field artillery made a reconnaissance south and east of Sbiba, covering some 35 miles in each direction. The 109th Engineers did yeoman's work in clearing minefields in front of this team. Previously, the 109th had earned a reputation envied by every fighting unit in Tunisia when they built a 35-mile road in three days, February 14 to February 17, from Sbiba to the central spine of mountains. It was this road that allowed the 133rd and 135th Battalions to keep ahead of the German thrust following the breakthrough at Faid Pass.

The last week of February saw a reorganization of the 34th which passed to command of the American II Corps. A tank battalion and a tank destroyer battalion were added along with the 175th Field Artillery and the 168th Infantry Battalion, now reconstituted with seasoned men from the 3rd Infantry Division. The American Commandos also rejoined the Division at this time. The 34th was at full strength and ready.

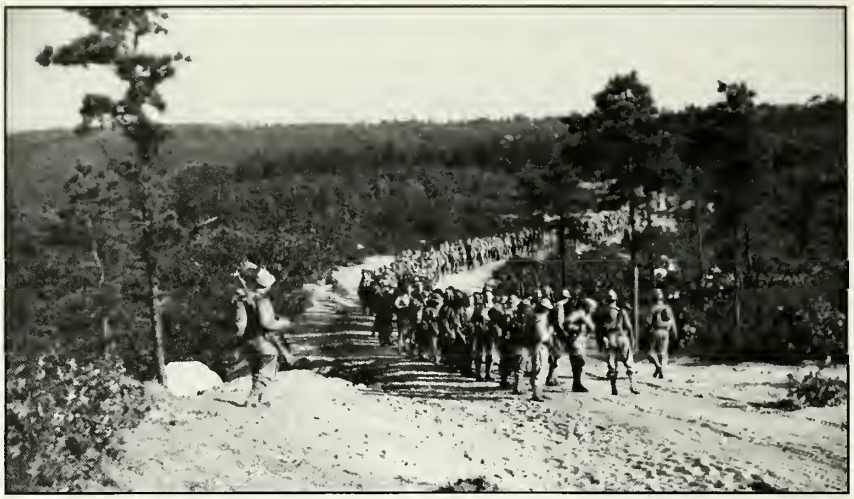
The first three weeks of March, 1943, were given over to large scale scouting of the plains area between our lines near Sbiba, and the mountain entrenchments of the Germans some 40 miles east. Constant skirmishes took place between our recon troops and those sent out by the Germans. This was plains warfare; there was no front, no flanks, an no rear. Most movement was after dark for the German's still controlled the air. This reconnaissance was of extreme importance; a great deal of information was collected on enemy positions and strength which was soon to be useful. Torrents of rain literally flooded these battle grounds during March. The infantry slept and slogged in mud; vehicles sank axle-deep in mud; and air strips became lakes of soft mud and were unusable.

Reconnaissance was completed and on March 25th, orders came for the Division's first major offensive of World War II. The Division was to take and hold Fondouk Pass in the central spine of mountains, through which ran a road to the town of Kairouan 20 miles to the east and to the seaport of Sousse, another 30 more miles eastward. All intermediate objectives were taken and on the 27th the 168th (Col. Frederick B. Butler, commanding) and the 135th (Col. Robert W. Ward, commanding) were in position to spearhead the attack. The attack was launched at 0630 hours with the 1st and 2nd Battalions of each Regiment leading, and their 3rd Battalions held in reserve. The enemy was dug in on each side of the Pass high up the slopes of the hills and could observe every detail of the attack. British troops were assigned the assault of the pass at Pichon a few miles north. The 1st Battalion of the 168th reached the foothills under a withering fire of mortars, artillery, and machine guns. The 2nd Battalion was forced to dig in for the night some 500 yards short of its goal. The two Battalions of the 135th also absorbed punishment from enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire and became split up. They were soon reorganized and joined the 168th in a renewed attack on the morning of the 28th. Both Regiments fought the mountain slopes, yard by yard, until one company of the 168th reached the heights overlooking the Pass and captured several prisoners. Then they advanced ridge by ridge until, meeting an impenetrable wall of fire from Panzer infantry, were forced to halt the attack. Both units were then ordered to fall back about two miles for reassessment of the situation. The pull-back was slow and deliberate, taking two days. Regimental commanders then pieced together the information on enemy positions and strength and organized another attack based on this information. The British IX Corps was called in to attack on the left while the units of the 34th were to cover the same ground as before. The 133rd and the 135th jumped off at 0430 hours on April 8th. These units of the 34th were to slow their advance after enemy positions were softened by a rolling artillery barrage, to allow Allied bombers to work over the German hill positions. The bombers never arrived and the advance was resumed at 0900 hours across an open, flat, 5-mile stretch to the foothills in full view of enemy observers. Our troops absorbed indescribable pounding from the enemy's high vantage points and by nightfall both Regiments were pinned down in the open by

Captain Bradish stands in front of a German tank somewhere in Europe. (Courtesy of James P. Ryan)

enemy fire. Fierce and bloody fighting resumed on the 9th of April but the attack was stopped a second time; the enemy was well placed in steel-reinforced gun positions which were virtually immune to our artillery fire, let alone small weapons. On the night of the 9th Col. Carley Marshall, commanding the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, was given permission to attempt a night assault on the enemy's high hill position. Three companies made the attack and a fourth covered the advance with machine guns and mortars. On reaching the German positions high up the hill a bloody battle ensued as the enemy was taken by surprise in the darkness of night. Finally, the three companies overran the enemy positions at 0130 hours on April 10th, and the hilltop was secured. A significant amount of enemy fire was cut off by this daring attack.

On this same day the 135th Regiment launched its final attack on Fondouk. The British had secured the hills on the left of the Pass by this time, again cutting into the massive enemy fire from that direction. With German resistance now reduced, the 135th swept through the Pass, occupying high vantage points at the eastern end of the gap. Tanks poured through in an attempt to cut off the German retreat, but the defenders of Fondouk escaped eastward. Fondouk Pass was taken after three bloody days resulting in severe losses to the 34th in this engagement which was almost a tactically impossible situation. Over 50 tanks were knocked out by enemy fire, and more than 1000 Red Bull infantrymen, engineers, and artillery men were killed, wounded, or missing in the two Fondouk battles. Although the 168th Regiment was not involved directly in this battle, they were assigned reconnaissance and patrol duties, drawing much enemy fire from the main attack. This role was no less important and may well have prevented even more losses to the 34th.



A long line of 34th Infantrymen march to their next destination. (Courtesy of S.C. Ryan)

Taking a break. (Courtesy of David Serikaku)

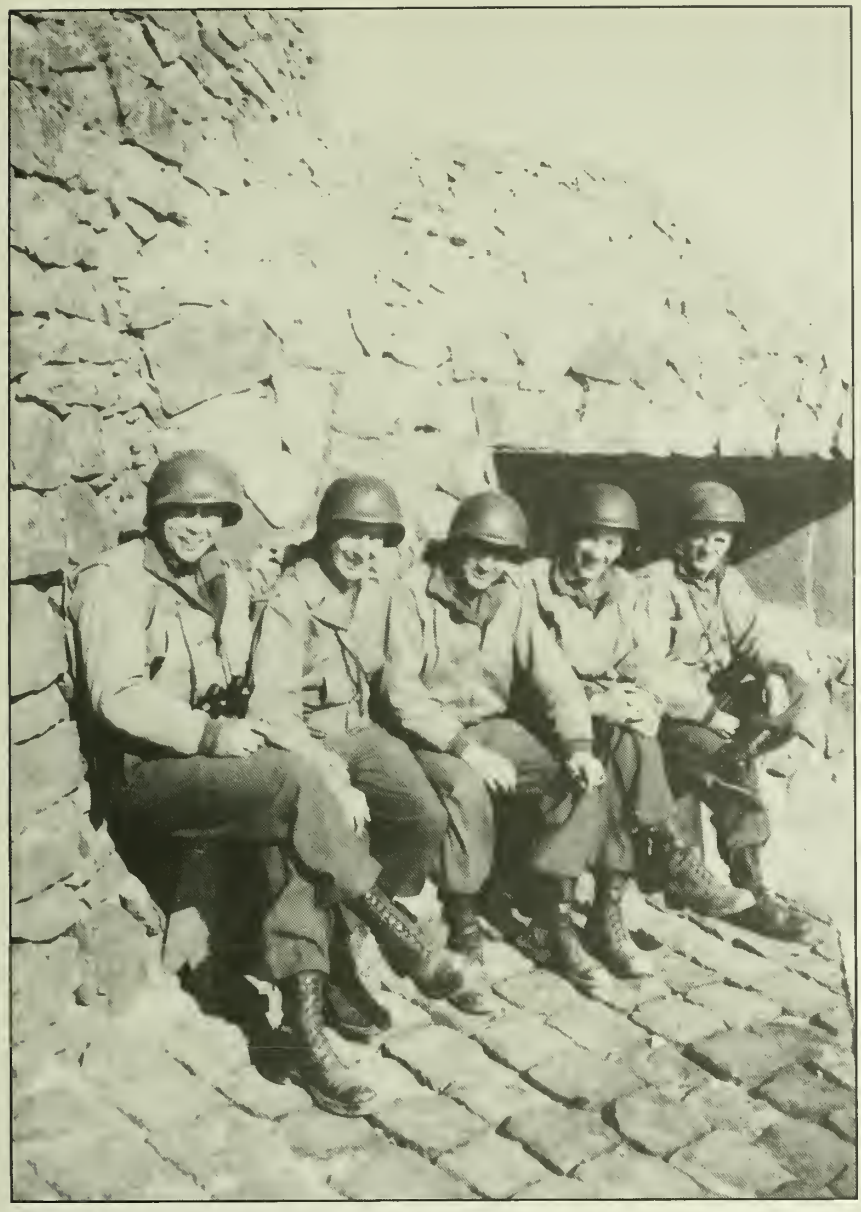
The Desert War Of The British 8th Army

We should digress briefly here to note another campaign which was to impact significantly on the final conquest of the German-Italian forces in Tunisia. That campaign is the heroic battle history of the British 8th Army in North Africa against the German-Italian infantry and tank Panzer divisions. This desert war was a see-saw battle for nearly three years, from June, 1940, to the middle of February, 1943, when the 8th Army finally pushed Rommel back to the Tunisian border. Most of this long campaign took place in Libya along the Mediterranean coast and was a battle for the important coastal ports of Tripoli, Beurat, Benghaze, and Tobruk which were the entry points for men and material to feed Rommel's divisions. The year 1942 was a dark one for the British; Rommel had gone on the attack with his powerful and disciplined tank divisions and rolled back the 8th Army into Egypt, less than 200 miles from Cairo, Rommel's ultimate objective. The British stand was made at El Alamein, a rail junction near the coast and about 260 miles into Egypt from the Libyan border to the west. On October 23rd, the 8th Army, General Montgomery commanding, launched their attack on Rommel's divisions which were attempting to carry out an encircling maneuver. With three armored and seven infantry divisions along a 40-mile front, north to south, preceded by a 1000-gun artillery barrage and air bombing, Montgomery struck the enemy positions in their center. For ten bloody days the battle raged until, on November 2nd, the 8th broke through the German lines, encircled a large enemy force on the coast, and turned all along the front to hit Rommel's divisions from his rear. By November 4th Montgomery's infantry and tanks were rolling unimpeded into Libya, and Rommel had lost much of his Africa Corps: 20,000 prisoners, 350 tanks destroyed or captured, 400 artillery pieces captured, and several thousand vehicles destroyed or captured. The German forces were now in a rout. The 8th Army took Tobruk on November 12th, Benghazi on November the 20th, and Tripoli on January 23rd, 1943, nearly 1,000 miles from El Alamein and less than 100 miles from the Tunisian border. By February 15th the victorious 8th Army had entered Tunisia, and Rommel's divisions, battered but still a powerful force to contend with, were cornered in an inescapable pocket of North Africa: American and British forces on his west, the 8th Army to his south, and the sea to his north and east.

The 34th Captures Djebel Tahent - Hill 609

Following the massive and successful assault at Fondouk, elements of the 168th sped eastward toward Kairouan, about 20 miles distant, harassing the German retreat. The British 8th Army, conducting a brilliant offensive from the south, had already pushed Rommel's troops northward and were in control of the Kairouan area. The 34th was then withdrawn to Maktar for rest and training. Over the next ten days the Division was given specialized training in night attacks - which had proven so successful at Fondouk - and training in advancing behind a rolling artillery barrage. General Ryder was a task-master in this training, insisting that men under his command must be the most hardened fighters possible at whatever segment of the front he was assigned. The training was to pay off handsomely in a few days.

Other American, French, and British forces were making good progress in driving the German-Italian divisions into a pocket in northeastern Tunisia, and on April 24th, the 34th as part of the American II Corps, was sent up to help deliver the final blow to the enemy. The Division was ordered to advance along a 35-mile front from Beja to Mateur in northernmost Tunisia. Between these towns was rugged terrain of high hills, mostly massive and sheer rock formations cultivated on their lower slopes but bare at their tops. The Germans had entrenched on these hills



L. to R: 1st Lt. Aces M. Westerman, 1st Lt. Paul B. McGuire, 2nd Lt. Clifford D. Anderson, 2nd Lt. John J. Mulhern and C.W.O Stan C. Ryan.

and their tops were perfect observation posts for directing artillery fire for miles in all directions. Every hill was heavily fortified with enemy infantry, and each of these enclaves posed a severe restriction to Allied operations. At this time, in the month of April, 1943, we should note that the enemy hold in North Africa was becoming tenuous at best. For the first time in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations the enemy was outgunned and out-manned: German-Italian divisions numbered fourteen, and Allied divisions, twenty. In addition, the Allies were now beginning to control the air completely. B-25 Mitchells were making thousands of bomb runs a day, and P-38 Lightning and British Spitfire fighters had swept the German Air Force from North Africa. Enemy troop ships had been arriving at a rate of 250 a day into Tunisia. This flow was cut off completely by our bombers. The Germans then turned to troop-carrying air transport but our fighters soon eliminated this attempt also. (On one day in April, 73 troop-carrying aircraft were shot down). The final days of the enemy in North Africa had come but he was not out; he was to fight on with incredible fanaticism to the very end.

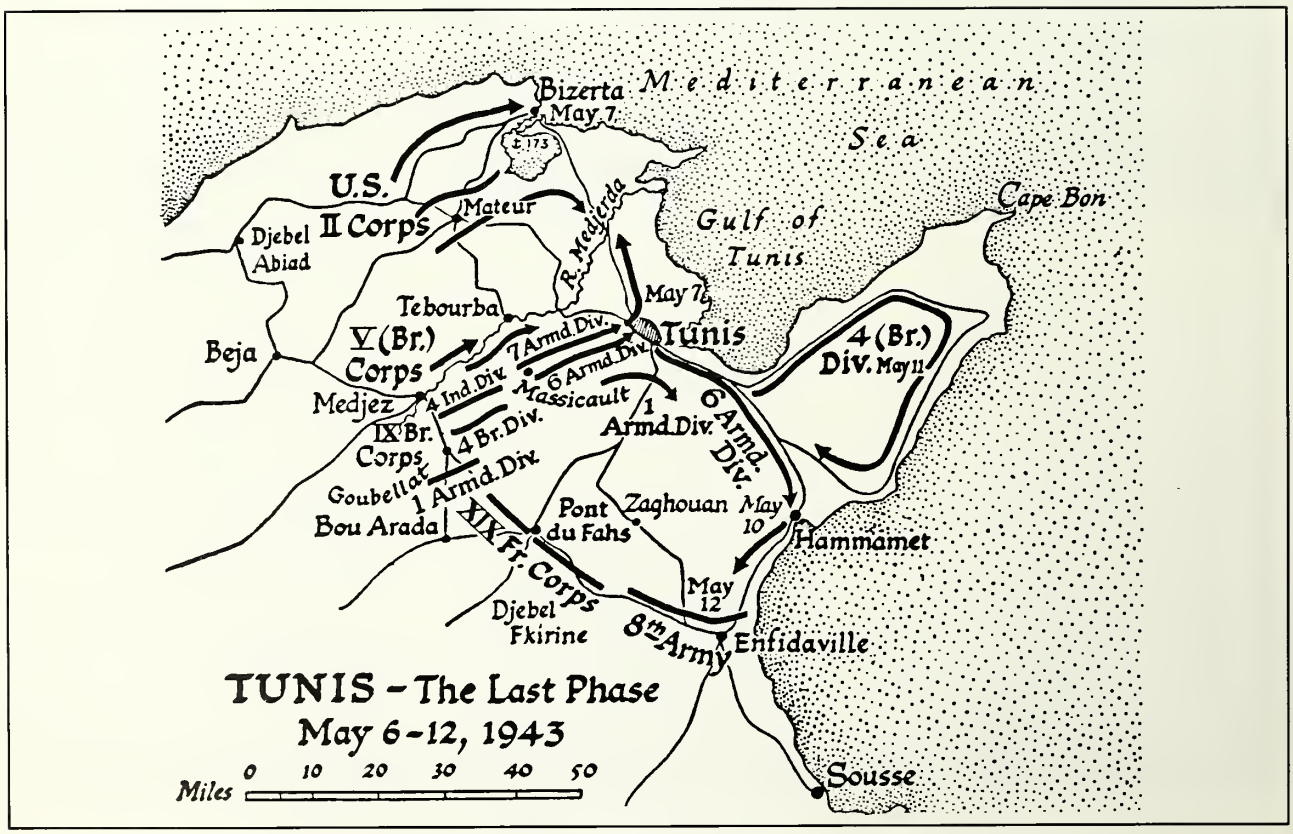
As we mentioned above, there was a chain of massive, partly vegetated, partly bare hill formations along the front facing the 34th. All were occupied by German infantry who were expertly positioned for their defense. Three of these hills (407, 473 and 375) were located about four miles west of Hill 609, the dominant and most massive of these rocks, on the right flank. Closer to 609 (about 1 to one and a half miles) and to its west and slightly north were three additional promentories (Hills 435, 490 and 461). South of 609 and only a half-mile distant, was Hill 531. Three Divisions of the American II Corps were assigned to the task of taking and securing all these hills: the 1st, 9th, and the 34th.

The 1st Division launched the initial attack against the western-most of these hills on April 23rd at dawn, and in two days of bloody combat had reached their bases. The 34th was then called up to protect the flanks of the 1st, allowing them to concentrate on a frontal attack. The 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 168th then launched an attack on the three hills, supported by the 1st Armored Division guns, but this attack was soon pinned down by a murderous machine gun fire from the slopes above. The next day, April 26th, after a saturation barrage by artillery, the 1st and 3rd Battalions attacked again and were pinned down a second time. The 2nd Battalion of the 168th, Major Edward Bird commanding, was at this time some three and one half miles to the south where he was engaged in other actions. He forced-marched his battalion northward to help out his beleaguered comrades. On April 28th this battalion occupied Hill 407 and 473 and the 1st Battalion drove to and cleared the easternmost Hill 375. On April 27th the 3rd Battalion, 135th, had moved to Hill 490, a little over a mile west of 609, and in fierce fighting, gained the summit. A ferocious counter-attack drove the 3rd from the hill but the battalion regrouped and on the morning of the 28th regained the top. Four enemy counter-attacks were repulsed as the battalion held its ground. All day on the 28th of April the Division's artillery pounded the remaining flanking hills (435, 461 and 531) and sent a massive concentration of high explosives into 609, the dominant feature of the terrain and the ultimate goal of the entire operation. Hill 461 was gained in a savage assault by the 2nd Battalion of the 135th. Hill 435 fell to Major Bird's 2nd Battalion, 168th, and the 135th's 1st Battalion swung south of 609 to attack and secure Hill 531 on April 28th, meeting bitter enemy resistance. The 1st and 34th Divisions had, by April 28th, swept the enemy from all the high terrain surrounding Hill 609 and the time had now come for an assault on this last dominating bastion.

At 0500 hours on April 29th the 3rd Battalion of the 135th started the attack on the eastern slope of Djebel Tahent - Hill 609. This massive rock - it was learned - was defended by the fanatical German Barenthin Regiment. By nightfall, after some twelve hours of terrifying pounding by enemy fire from the high slopes, the battalion had worked its way only a half mile up the hill. At dawn on April 30th the attack was renewed: the 3rd Battalion, 135th, started its climb again, yard by yard; the 2nd Battalion, 168th, and the 1st Battalion, 133rd, joined in the attack of the northern slopes. This joint effort gained the summit on the far north end of the hill by nightfall, absorbing a fierce pounding by the German defenders. Counter-attack after counter-attack was repulsed on the following day, May 1st, as these units held firm. Then on May 1st the final blow was struck: the 3rd Battalion of the 135th moved to the summit along a goat trail on the northeast side of the massive rock. The Germans had believed the trail route to the top was impassable and so chose not to defend it as heavily as the eastern approaches. The 3rd Battalion burst to the top at the German's rear, taking him completely by surprise. All resistance ceased. With this key defensive position lost, German forces on the plains east of these hills now retreated eastward and northward in a near rout, destroying their equipment as they went. We immediately placed observers on Hill 609 to direct a devastating artillery fire on the mass retreat.

It is said that during these days in northern Tunisia, especially following the fall of Hill 609, the "Red Bull" Division "found itself". From bewilderment at having the Division split-up over great distances in Algeria and Tunisia, to the bitterness of the massacre at Faid, to the gallant victories at Fondouk and Djebel Tahent, the 34th was now one of the toughest, most battle-wise, and experienced combat groups of the entire American war effort in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

Tiger tanks near Mateur. (Courtesy of Chaplain R. Larson)



Final Days of the Tunisian Campaign

Following the fall of Hill 609 the 1st, 9th and 34th Divisions struck out like a shell burst east and north of the battle ground. The 1st Armored and the 9th Infantry swept north to capture Mateur, less than 25 miles from Bizerte, rolling the disorganized German divisions before them. The 168th and the 135th thrust east in a running gun battle with the retreating enemy to a mountain pass at a small town called Chouigui, 15 miles beyond Hill 609. Both units encountered bitter rear-guard resistance by the enemy en route, but on May 8th the pass was taken without opposition. These units then proceeded to comb the hills, flushing out minor pockets of resistance and taking many prisoners.

During this mop-up operation, the 9th Division and French units drove with relentless abandon northeastward, turning the enemy's right flank, and entered Bizerte on May 7th. Tunis fell to units of the British 8th Army on the same day, and other British units cleared the Cape Bon Peninsula, jutting eastward into the Mediterranean from Tunis. During the next week the 34th, often side-by side with British units, continued to clear pockets of resistance as they inexorably squeezed what remained of the German armies into a smaller and smaller pocket of northeastern Tunisia. Finally, on May 15th, 1943, General Von Arnim, commanding all Axis forces in North Africa (Rommel had been flown to Germany and hospitalized), surrendered to the Allies. Nearly 250,000 German and Italian prisoners were taken (many driving themselves or simply walking into the P.O.W. camps), in addition to thousands of tons of war equipment. The British navy and the American and British air forces made sure that virtually none of the enemy was able to escape from Tunisia by sea or air.

Six months after the landings at Algiers the men of the 34th would now have a brief respite from combat; for a while they would not have to shoot at an enemy and, more important to them, they would not be shot at by an enemy. But the six months of the toughest fighting imaginable - 4,254 men of the Red Bull killed, wounded, or missing since Algiers - had sharpened the 34th to a razor's edge.

The 34th Cleans-Up, Rests, Refits, and Trains - Again.

The Division was assigned almost immediately to the task of cleaning up the holocaust of war in Tunisia, collecting the spent material of warfare from the battlefields. Guns, tanks, vehicles of every description, undetonated explosives - of both armies - were found, collected, and catalogued. On May 20th, 1943, less than a week following the formal surrender of Axis forces a grand, two-hour long, victory parade was staged in Tunis. General Eisenhower, as Commander-in-Chief of Mediterranean operations, and all high commanders of the Allied forces in this Theater reviewed this showy pageant. Representatives of all Divisions that fought in the North Africa campaign participated; the 34th was well represented by the 135th Infantry Regiment, marching eight abreast down the palm-lined Boulevard Galliani. Allied tanks of the British 8th Army and the American II Corps rolled two abreast past cheering thousands, and wave after wave of Mitchells, Lightnings and Spitfires darkened the skies overhead. It was a grand show of victory and the fighting men of all the Allied forces needed it - a grateful "thank you" for a job well-done.

For the next few weeks the Division was to help in preparation for the invasion of Sicily, from which action it was exempted in taking a direct part. The Division manned prisoner of war stockades, set up staging areas for the troops who would make the initial assault of Sicily (the 1st and 45th Infantry Divisions under General Patton), drove and maintained trucks and tankers supplying gasoline to the always-thirsty medium bombers and fighter planes that were pounding enemy installations on the island in round-the-clock air strikes. The Division fur-

S/Sgt. Walker and M/Sgt. Carter. (Courtesy of James P. Ryan)

Sgt. Milo Green HQ's 168th Inf. overlooking the city of Algiers, N. Africa. January 1943. (Courtesy of Phil Mogg)

nished cooks, pulled K.P., dug latrines, and loaded ships in the harbors. The men were jacks-of-all-trades; not glorifying duty, but they were not being shot at and the work had to be done.

On July 10th, 1943, units of the British 8th Army and Patton's 7th Army stormed ashore on the southern beaches of Sicily -operation "Husky" - in an assault that would eventually comprise thirteen divisions. In thirty eight gruelling days of combat Sicily fell to the Allies. Enemy losses were later calculated at 167,000 men; Allied losses were 31,160 killed, wounded or missing. One thousand enemy aircraft were taken, many intact. Thousands of prisoners were shipped back to the compounds in Tunisia (the 168th manned one of these).

During the last week in July, 1943, the Division was sent back to the vicinity of Oran, some 650 miles westward from Bizerte, by truck and train. There the Division underwent rigorous combat training, including the techniques of amphibious landings. At this time a significant and welcome addition of strength was made to the 34th Division. The 100th Infantry Battalion was formed up of troops of Japanese descent, mostly from Hawaii. All U.S. citizens of course, America wished to show the world that ancestry, even to a hated enemy, was of no concern in it's fight against global tyranny. The 100th was soon to prove its worth in combat as an outstanding unit.

By now it was no secret that, after the fall of Sicily which by this time was imminent, the next attack of Allied forces would be Europe itself. For the past seven months plans for an attack in southern Europe had been underway, and it was finally decided that the best promise for a successful landing would be the beaches of southern Italy. The invasion was code named "Avalanche". German-Italian forces were known to be in great strength throughout the Italian peninsula so a landing anywhere would not be a walkover. The invasion of the "soft underbelly" of Europe was to be a gigantic and complex operation. Several major attacks would be initiated: three American Ranger Battalions, two British Commando units, a British armored brigade, and two British Divisions would hit the beaches south and east of Salerno, about 30 miles southeast of Naples. The American 82nd Airborne Division would support these landings in the northern sector. About 10 miles south of these landings the American 36th Division which had just recently arrived from the United States and had undergone amphibious training at Oran with the 34th, was to spearhead the attack near the coastal city of Paestum followed by the American 3rd, 34th, and 45th Divisions and the 13th Field Artillery Brigade once the beachhead was established. Most of the 34th was held in reserve. As it turned out, the only unit of the 34th that was to participate in these landings was the 151st Field Artillery which had been detached to the 36th Division.

Simultaneously with the assault on the Salerno-Paestum beaches, the British 8th Army was to cross the Straits of Messina from the eastern tip of Sicily and strike the "toe" of the Italian "boot" near Reggio. In addition to these complex assaults, the British navy was to put troops ashore at the important Italian naval base of Taranto, on the western shore of the "heel" of the Italian peninsula and establish a base there from which they could strike northward to join the Salerno troops as they pushed inland. The British forces that were to land on the Italian "toe" would push northward and join these troops to begin the roll-back of the German Armies northwestward up the peninsula. The whole was an incredibly complicated operation that would eventually succeed, but not without enormous casualties on both sides.

The Allied forces, both British and American, totaled about 169,000 men; the German forces under the command of Field Marshal Kesselring was estimated to have about 100,000 troops in the field to oppose these landings, distributed among four Panzer divisions. American and British forces assigned to the Salerno landings were placed in the American 5th Army, General Mark Clark commanding. The British 8th struck the Reggio beachhead on September 3rd, hoping to draw some of Kesselring's troops away from the Salerno area, and in five days of fighting had penetrated 50 miles northward. The landings at Salerno and Taranto Naval Base (British) were set for September 9th.

Combat engineers 109th removing mines. April 1944 Anzio. (Courtesy of Martin F. Zetwick)

Invasion of Axis-Held Europe - The Beginning Of The End

On the night of September 8th the announcement came that the Italian government had fallen and that all Italian troops were to cease hostilities. The Italian fleet at Taranto surrendered and British forces went ashore unopposed. The Germans immediately replaced all Italian forces with their own. The announcement that Italian troops were to stop fighting sent a wave of optimism through the assaulting troops, already off Salerno in the 450 ships of the invasion armada. The Germans however had not thought of allowing the Allies a foothold in their "fortress Europe."

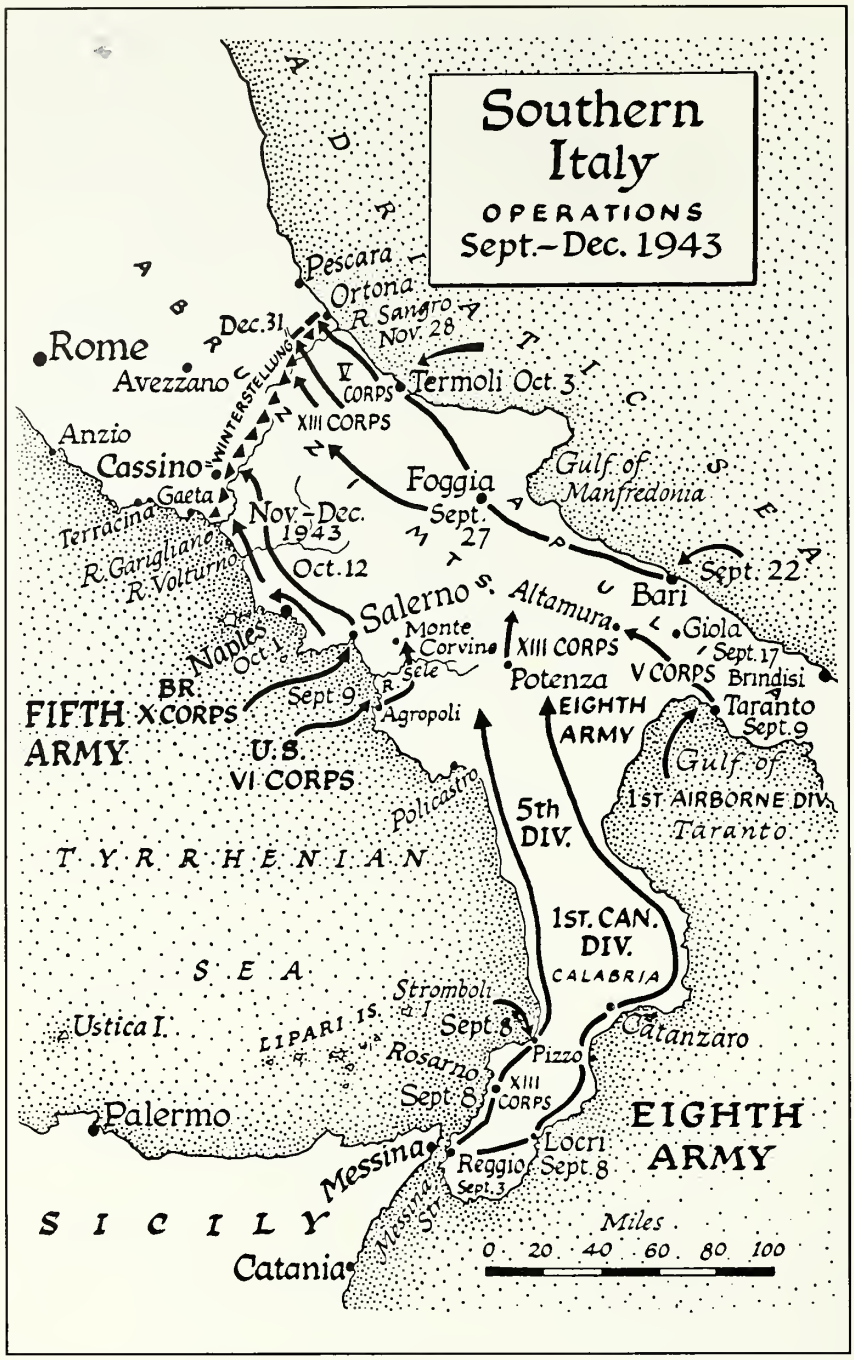
At 0100 hours on September 9th the men of the 36th Division scrambled down the ship-side nets and into the DUCKW'S and headed for the beach. As the first boat scraped the shore all hell broke loose. Flares lighted the sky and German artillery opened up on the beach. Two regiments of the 36th Division made it ashore and immediately rushed up the beach to the plains beyond, toward low hills faintly visible in the darkness. Once these infantrymen were ashore, our own 151st Field Artillery were lowered into their landing craft and headed for shore. One of their 105 millimeter howitzers was lost in a ramming accident but all men were saved. When the 151st reached the beach it became apparent that the landing was in jeopardy; the two regiments of the 36th were taking an unmerciful pounding from artillery and Panzer tanks that were brought up to repel the invasion. The 36th Division artillery, including the 151st, quickly set up their positions and began pouring a rain of fire into enemy gun positions, enemy troops, and advancing Mark IV tanks. The situation became critical; the infantry was being threatened by superior forces and it appeared for a while that they and the entire invading force would be forced off the beachhead and back into the sea. It was at this moment of doubt when the 151st swung into action. Units of the division had penetrated to the foot of Monte Soprano, the dominating feature of the area, about seven miles inland from the beach. They were in danger of being cut off and encircled by German tanks. Seven Mark IV's attacked these units and the 151st leveled their guns and destroyed two of them, the remainder retreating. Tank groups attacked repeatedly throughout the morning. The 151st beat off every attack. Between 1030 and 1330 hours fourteen Panzer tanks assaulted the position of the 151st; five of these deaths dealing monsters received direct hits by our batteries and were destroyed. Each time the remaining tank commanders of the group thought better of taking their chances against such deadly fire, and withdrew. In one incident, one battery was overrun by a tank attack; the gunners cooly withdrew, deployed as infantry and with rifles and grenades retook their position and continued firing.

For four grueling days the Germans pounded the beachhead and the plains beyond, but by then the landing was secure. On September 15th the German forces showed signs of weakening and started a general withdrawal northeastward. Of the 151st's outstanding performance in this difficult operation, the Chief of Staff of the 36th

Captain Gault stands beside a bunker. (Courtesy of John J. Hafer)

34th Infantrymen at the Volturno Crossing, Italy. (Courtesy of Oscar J. Knickey)

Anzio Beach Head George Lockman and James Mabe. (Courtesy of James R. Mabe)



Division said: "Had it not been for the arrival of the 151st Field Artillery Battalion thirty minutes before the first counter-attack by German tanks, it is probable that the beachhead would have been destroyed." To comprehend the enormity of the fighting at Paestum, in the first week, from September 9th to the 15th, the 151st expended more shells on the enemy than were fired during its entire action in the Tunisian campaign

The 34th Ships To Salerno. The Breakout

Once the Salerno-Paestum beachhead was secured orders were issued for the 34th Division to embark for the battle zone. The 135th and the 168th were the first to board and leave Oran. Their destination was Naples which was expected to be in Allied hands by the time of their arrival.

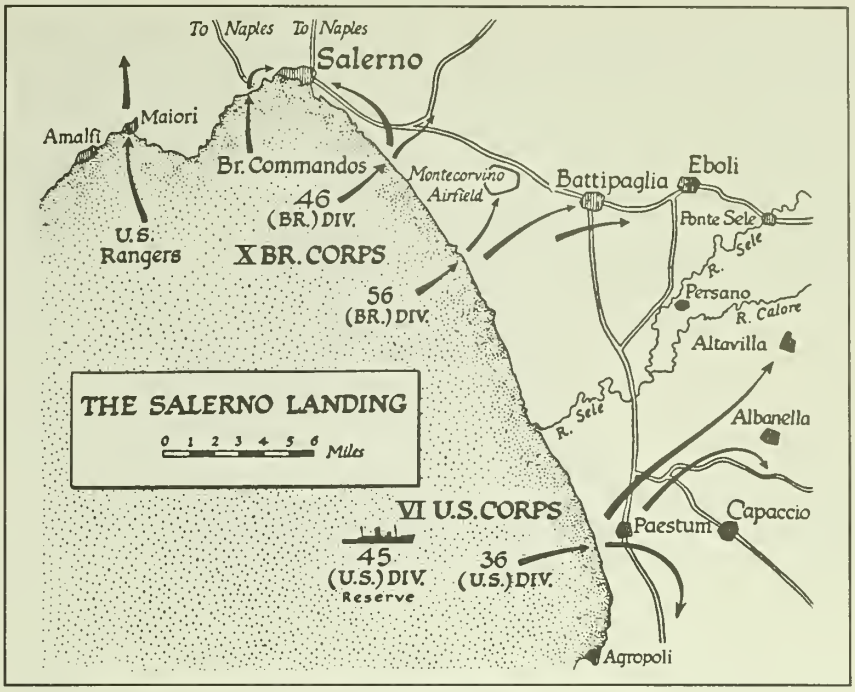
Consequently these regiments did not pack for combat; they fully expected to simply disembark at a controlled port. On approaching the Italian mainland however, it became obvious that the Allied command was too optimistic: Naples was still in German hands. The ship immediately turned southeastward for the Salerno beachhead and anchored offshore from the Sele River, about four miles north of Paestum. Meanwhile, the 133rd Infantry Regiment back at Oran, was given more meaningful orders: it was to load for combat, leaving all battle-useless gear behind and proceed directly to Salerno-Paestum to join the rest of the Division. The 133rd arrived off the Sele River mouth only a few hours after their sister Regiments and at 1000 hours all units landed on the beach in their assault boats. British naval guns and American aircraft provided cover but the landing was unopposed; The Germans had begun a general withdrawal several days before, having lost their opportunity to crush the beachhead. Field Marshal Kesselring realized he no longer had the forces to oppose the invasion and with the British 8th Army advancing from their landing on Italy's "toe" at Reggio, he was in danger of encirclement of his left flank. He therefore elected to swing his divisions northward using the area near Salerno to the north as a hinge, and subsequently establish a line of defense across the width of Italy, from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic Sea, to form a front of some 80 miles in length. The Allied command however had no intention of allowing the retreating Germans the luxury of establishing a defense line at their leisure. The 133rd was ordered to form a combat team and strike out northward in hot pursuit of Kesselring's Panzer divisions. With this team was the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, the 125th Field Artillery, a company of the 109th Engineers, a company of the 109th Medical, and attached units of anti-aircraft, tank destroyer, and reconnaissance troops. The team was under the command of Colonel Ray C. Fountain.

At this time, in the last week of September, 1943, the British 8th Army was slugging its way northward toward the beachhead from the "toe" of Italy. With the American and British successes (the British 46th and 56th Divisions and the American Rangers in the north sector had taken several towns including Salerno and Battipaglia), Kesselring ordered his troops facing the British 8th to pull back to cover his retreat northward. With this pressure removed, the 8th Army exploded forward and joined with the beachhead forces on September 18th. The Germans then brought in three divisions and a parachute regiment from the north to slow the Allied advance. A variety of warships steamed into Salerno Bay to train their long range guns on this advancing force and Allied air forces pounded their columns wherever they could spot them. So this was the situation when Col. Fountain's combat team was ordered inland to cover some 60 to 80 miles as rapidly as possible toward the town of Benevento, hitting the Germans wherever they found them to speed their retreat. Their ultimate mission was to control the roads leading south from this town and prevent the enemy reinforcements from reaching the main battle zone. This advance turned out to be a picnic: the Fall rains had started and mud seemed to cover everything. Roads and hillsides were slippery and treacherous. On the 27th of September the team crossed the Calore River, a tributary of the Volturno, gingerly negotiating mine fields and absorbing artillery fire from rear elements of the enemy. But speed was essential. The team passed through the positions of the 45th Infantry on the 28th of September and the next day caught up with the units of the 26th Panzer Division - the same enemy unit that almost destroyed the Paestum beachhead. A brief but fierce fight by the 100th (Nisei) Battalion forced the enemy units to speed their withdrawal. As the 133rd sped forward along the Calore River, they struck like lightning and several towns fell along their route of advance, including San Angelo, Montemarrano, and San Giorgio.

By October 2nd the 133rd had reached the outskirts of Benevento (Naples fell to Allied troops on this day), and the 125th and 151st Battalions poured a rain of artillery fire on the town. The infantry then assaulted this objective

and it soon was in our hands. The engineers immediately shored up a stone bridge crossing the Calore River which the German demolition team, in their hasty retreat, had not been able to completely destroy. (The German team came back that night to finish the job and were given a hot welcome by the 133rd riflemen!). Col. Fountain's 133rd had covered 40 miles in five days under the most adverse conditions of weather and enemy resistance, an outstanding feat of endurance and aggressiveness. But most important, the Germans were now blocked from bringing their reinforcements any further south; their defensive stand would now have to be made well north of Naples, and Allied strength was growing almost hourly. With the successful conclusion of this first mission of the 34th in Italy, the entire Division was moved west some 20 miles, handing over their gains to the 45th Infantry. We were now to relieve the 3rd Division along the Volturno River.

By October 7th Allied armies - American, British, French and later a Brazilian unit - had rolled back the German defenses to the Volturno River, 20 miles north of Naples. The front proceeded eastward along the Volturno River to about 5 miles north of Benevento, then northward across the peninsula to the port city of Termoli on the Adriatic coast, the front at this time about 80 miles long. The American 5th Army was assigned to the sector from Benevento west to the Tyrrhenian coast, and the British 8th Army the sector from Benevento northward to the Adriatic Sea. The American components included the 3rd, 45th, and our own 34th Divisions and the attached British Xth Corps of three divisions. Against these Allied Divisions Kesselring brought up four divisions, three of them armored Panzer units. We had an advantage in total numbers of troops (100,000 to 60,000) but the Germans had an advantage in hardened and almost invulnerable mountain defensive positions. The men of the 34th were well aware of enemy defensive capabilities; Hill 609 was still a vivid memory.



First Crossing Of The Volturno

The sector assigned to the 34th as its jump-off point was near the confluence of the Volturno and Calore River. Its sector was about 9 miles wide. Originally scheduled for October 2nd, 1943, the actual attack which was coordinated along the 80-mile front, did not get off until October 13th. Incessant rains had made a quagmire of the intended route, and the Germans had done a thorough job of laying mine fields and blowing bridges; it took some time for our patrols to gather this information and the initial attack date was put back. The 34th was to cross the Volturno River and take several small towns and hills about seven miles north of the river, but always pushing the German defense line northward. Our intelligence indicated that the Germans would attempt a stand just north of the river, and would no doubt turn its artillery on our troops at the moment of crossing. The 2,000 yards of flat plains between the river and the hills would be heavily mined and would be swept with mortar and interlocking machine gun fire.

All during the night of October 12th massive amounts of supplies, food, ammunition and bridge making materials were moved to positions near the river. The M.P.'s directing of convoy after convoy in a total blackout kept this enormous transport operation running like clockwork; their performance on this night is still viewed as a textbook example of perfect traffic coordination. It was a black, moonless but clear night. At 0145 hours on October 13th the Division Artillery began literally saturating enemy positions on the opposite bank with thousands of rounds. At 0200 hours the barrage was lifted and the 1st Battalions of both the 168th Regiment (Col. Butler, commanding) and the 135th Regiment (Col. Ward, commanding) waded into the swollen Volturno.

The spearhead troops of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 168th, rifles held high overhead, sloshed through chest-deep water, fighting the swift current, to the opposite bank. Some men tried to ford the river in assault boats only to be swept downstream forcing them to abandon the boats. Equipment was lost and some men were drowned but the majority of the 1st Battalion made it across. The 2nd Battalion missed the crossing point in the darkness (in part due to a heavy smoke screen layed down by the 2nd Chemical Battalion) and had to string a line across the river which the men used as a guide to reach the opposite bank.

About three miles to the right (east) of Col. Butler's men, the 135th launched their assault opposite the north bank town of Squille. The Germans on the north bank lobbed mortar shells and raked the assaulting troops with machine gun fire, but it was a token opposition; they were clearly rear-guard units covering a general withdrawal.

Men of the 34th forged across the Volturno all during the remaining hours of darkness, along with four tank destroyers of the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion. By dawn the north bank had been secured and the order came for the push northward all along the front. Both

Battipaglia, Italy (Courtesy of Stanley C. Ryan)

Regiments immediately broke out onto the plains and raced for the hills in the near distance. German S-mines took their toll in spite of the heroic efforts of mine-sweeping teams and the advancing troops absorbed fierce mortar and machine gun fire.

By 0800 hours the 2nd Battalion, 168th, had gained the high ground overlooking the town of San Giovanni about one and a half miles north of the Volturno. Col. Butler's 1st Battalion met much stiffer resistance and could advance only behind a rolling barrage from the 175th Field Artillery and the 168th Cannon Company. The Battalion finally reached its objective, hills overlooking San Giovanni, by 1700 hours. At this same time the 3rd Battalion, 168th which had been held back to protect the flanks of their sister battalions, had crossed the river and advanced to the hill just east of Caiazzo, about a mile from San Giovanni.

The 135th, their advanced slowed by enemy opposition, by-passed Squille, and by noon of the next day, October 14th, had reached the Caiazzo hills and made contact with the 168th and also with the 45th Division whose coordinated assault came from the east and which required their crossing of the Volturno also.

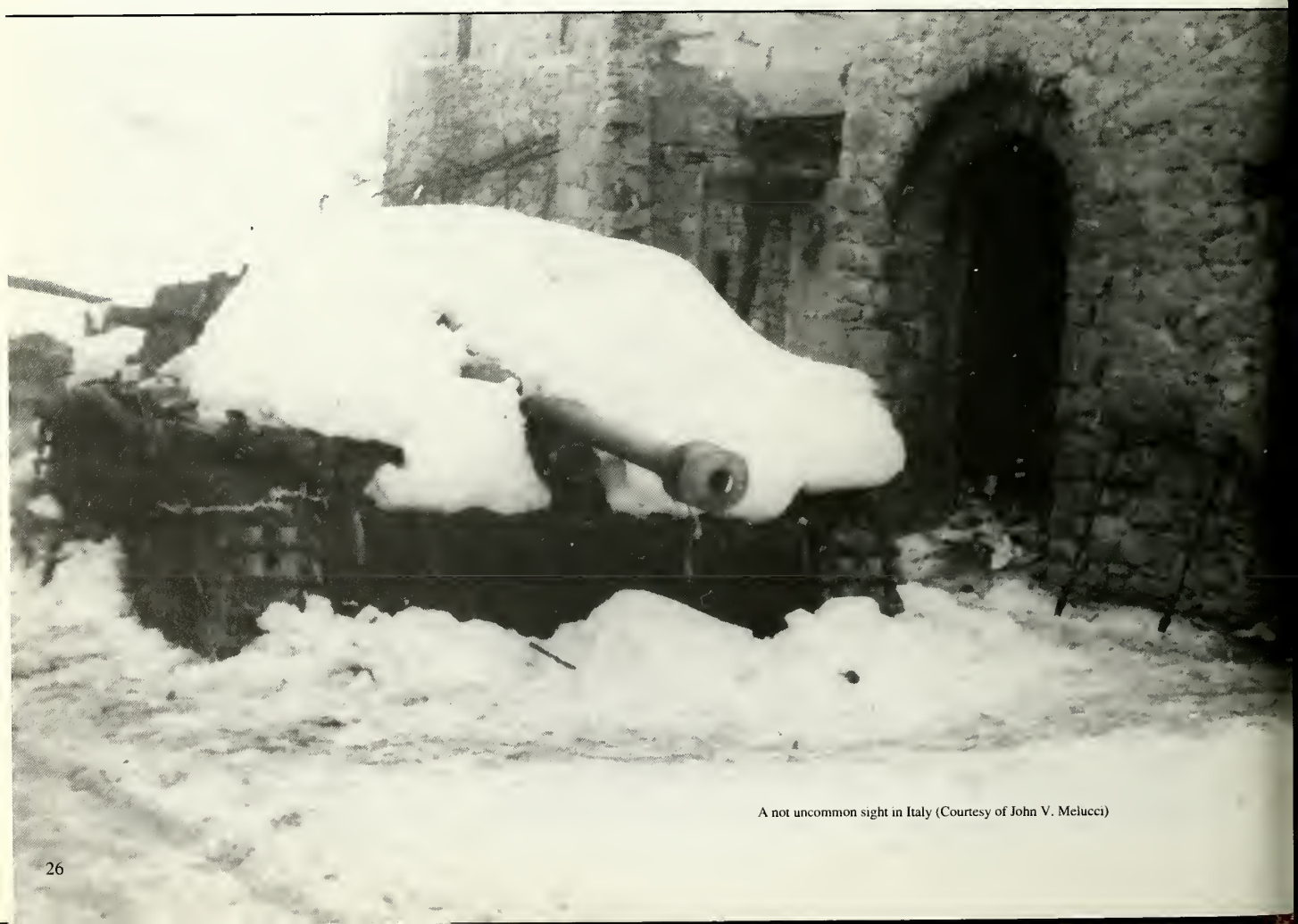
The attack then had to stop for lack of supplies, especially ammunition. The men of the 109th Engineers again came to the rescue. Under direct mortar and artillery fire from the enemy, the engineers threw together pontoon bridges across the river to support the initial rapid thrust of our troops. By the morning of October 15th, a 30-ton bridge had been assembled and was in operation. By that evening tons of supplies were on their way to the infantry. The 1st and 3rd Battalions, 168th, resupplied with ammunition, struck north, and in two days covered about five miles to the high ground overlooking the town of Alvignano. Units of the 3rd Division on the 34th's left, raced north and then east to enter and take Alvignano. Within four days, all units of General Clark's 5th Army had achieved their objectives and the German armies were now retreating to a new defense line. From the beachhead at Salerno, 30 miles south of Naples, to the new line about 25 miles north of Naples, had taken only five weeks. But in spite of the rains, mud, and cold there would be no rest for us, or the enemy; the 34th was ordered to press the attack.

On October 18th the 133rd Infantry Regiment, Col. Fountain commanding, which had been held in reserve for the first Volturno crossing (there were to be more), was ordered to the front with its assigned objective as the seizure of a bridge spanning the Volturno near Dragoni. The river flowed generally north-south at this point. The previous day the 168th and elements of the 3rd Division had penetrated to Dragoni, about 15 miles north of the first crossing of the Volturno; it was a mortar; artillery and machine gun fight all the way to the village. On October 19th the 168th entered Dragoni under a covering fire of 3rd Division artillery. The 133rd then swept past Dragoni to the bridge, but were too late; in withdrawing from Dragoni the Germans had blown the bridge.

Second Crossing Of the Volturno

The 133rd and the 135th then forded the Volturno for the second time, in hot pursuit of the retreating 3rd German Panzer Division. By October 20th the entire 34th had crossed the Volturno and before dawn the 133rd had taken Alife, four miles from the crossing point. Rear elements of the enemy were exposing our advancing troops to a constant stream of fire, both mortar and machine gun, and artillery and rifle. The 34th linked up with the 45th east of Alife and relieved the 45th which had been in the front lines for many weeks without rest.

The 133rd immediately turned northward toward San Angelo d'Alife, about four miles north of Alife, situated part way up the slope of the Matese mountains. The Germans decided to make a stand at this point and a bloody battle took place. The 100th Battalion was assigned the initial assault and late in the evening of October 20th pressed up the mountain side. At midnight the enemy opened up with a machine gun crossfire and the 100th was pinned down. The 3rd Battalion, behind artillery fire from the 185th and the 151st Field Artillery, then assaulted the slopes and were also pinned down. After dawn on the 21st the enemy brought in tanks in the hope of overrunning the Regiment but our artillery, aided by a light observation plane, destroyed and damaged several of these, forcing the rest to withdraw. All day on the 22nd the two forces slugged it out without a decisive blow being delivered by either. On October 23rd the 3rd Battalion gained a hill overlooking the town, but the 100th could not help out, again being pinned down by a withering machine gun fire. Panzer tanks appeared, again inflicting heavy losses on the 100th before our artillery drove them off for a second time.



A not uncommon sight in Italy (Courtesy of John V. Melucci)

The 1st Battalion, held in reserve for this assault, was now called up, and in a bloody drive entered the town on the morning of October 24th. The Germans had withdrawn some two miles to the north but had inflicted great casualties on the 133rd. As the 1st Battalion attacked, the 100th gingerly plied its way through heavy mine fields and gained the summit of Hill 529. The 133rd had finally gained all its objectives. The next day (October 25th, 1943) the 135th moved through the position of the 133rd to keep the pressure on the retreating Germans. Their immediate goal was the capture of several hills just east of Raviscanina (about one and a half miles to the north) to which the Germans had retreated.

It was now painfully obvious to Allied Command that the German strategy was simply a highly organized delaying action, at which they were masterful. Kesselring must have known that with the forces at his disposal he could not stop completely the Allied advance let alone mount an attack that would roll back the front. He needed time to construct a defense line across the peninsula, somewhere further north, in the hope that he could make a stand for some weeks or even months. To this end he had ordered his divisions to hold their defense positions for as long as possible, inflicting as many casualties as their hold-out time permitted, and then to withdraw when these positions became untenable. Having had time to construct hillside defense positions that were almost impregnable, the plan was working with precision, for the attacking Allied forces were suffering heavy casualties and were often pinned down or their advance was slowed to yard by yard gains.

On the morning of October 26th, the 135th Regiment was in position and Division artillery laid down a barrage on the hills near Raviscanina, the 185th Field Artillery alone lobbing in shells at a rate of 400 per hour over two hours. The 3rd Battalion then scaled Hill 559, cleared it of enemy opposition and secured the summit. At 0600 hours the 2nd Battalion began its advance across the flat land toward the base of Hill 235 but was checked short of its goal by enemy mortar and machine gun fire. On the morning of the 27th a tank battalion (the 191st) was attached to the 2nd Battalion and the attack resumed. Our artillery, now crack shots, knocked out five enemy tanks. It was obvious that the enemy intended to defend these hills to the last man if necessary, and two more field artillery battalions (the 17th and the 27th Armored) were added to the 2nd Battalion's strength. On October 28th the Infantry grouped behind the tanks of the 191st and started forward again. Mines and German artillery knocked out three of our tanks; the Germans had refitted some ten of their Mark IV's as artillery pieces and their aim was devastating.

The fighting ability of the 135th had been reduced considerably by the enemy's stubborn resistance and the men were exhausted. Consequently, the 168th Infantry was ordered in, fresh and fully equipped, to attack the position on the morning of the 29th at 1000 hours. With almost no resistance the 168th gained the summit; characteristically, the remaining German defense forces had withdrawn northward during the night. The German army was now retreating more rapidly than ever, facing the 34th Division on his left, the 45th at his center, and the 3rd on his right.

Third Crossing of the Volturno

The enemy would not be allowed to rest. The 34th drove relentlessly toward the Volturno again, now flowing in a north-south direction and near its head waters in the mountains. By October 30th the 135th cleared out two towns on the river about eleven miles north of Raviscanina, and on October 31st the 133rd and 168th also reached the Volturno, occupying several villages on the high hills commanding the Volturno valley below. Pursuing the rapidly retreating German forces was exhausting work. Hill after hill was scaled and taken but now against little or no resistance. The enemy was withdrawing northward across the Volturno, his main forces still intact and heading toward more defensible positions.

Members of the 34th Inf. trying to keep warm (Courtesy of Waldon H. Johnson)

The Allied Fifth Army, and specifically the 34th Division, had advanced more than 20 miles northward from the first crossing of the Volturno, in 18 days. All objectives had been reached and taken along this 40-mile front. The bitter fighting had been conducted in rugged terrain, during the worst of weather, and against a determined and fanatic enemy fighting for his very existence. The infantry suffered unspeakable misery, constantly soaked to the skin by the fall rains, at times ankle deep in mud, without winter clothing - or dry clothing of any kind - fording turbulent rivers and streams trying to keep his ammunition dry. But again, the 34th was facing the Volturno River for the third time.

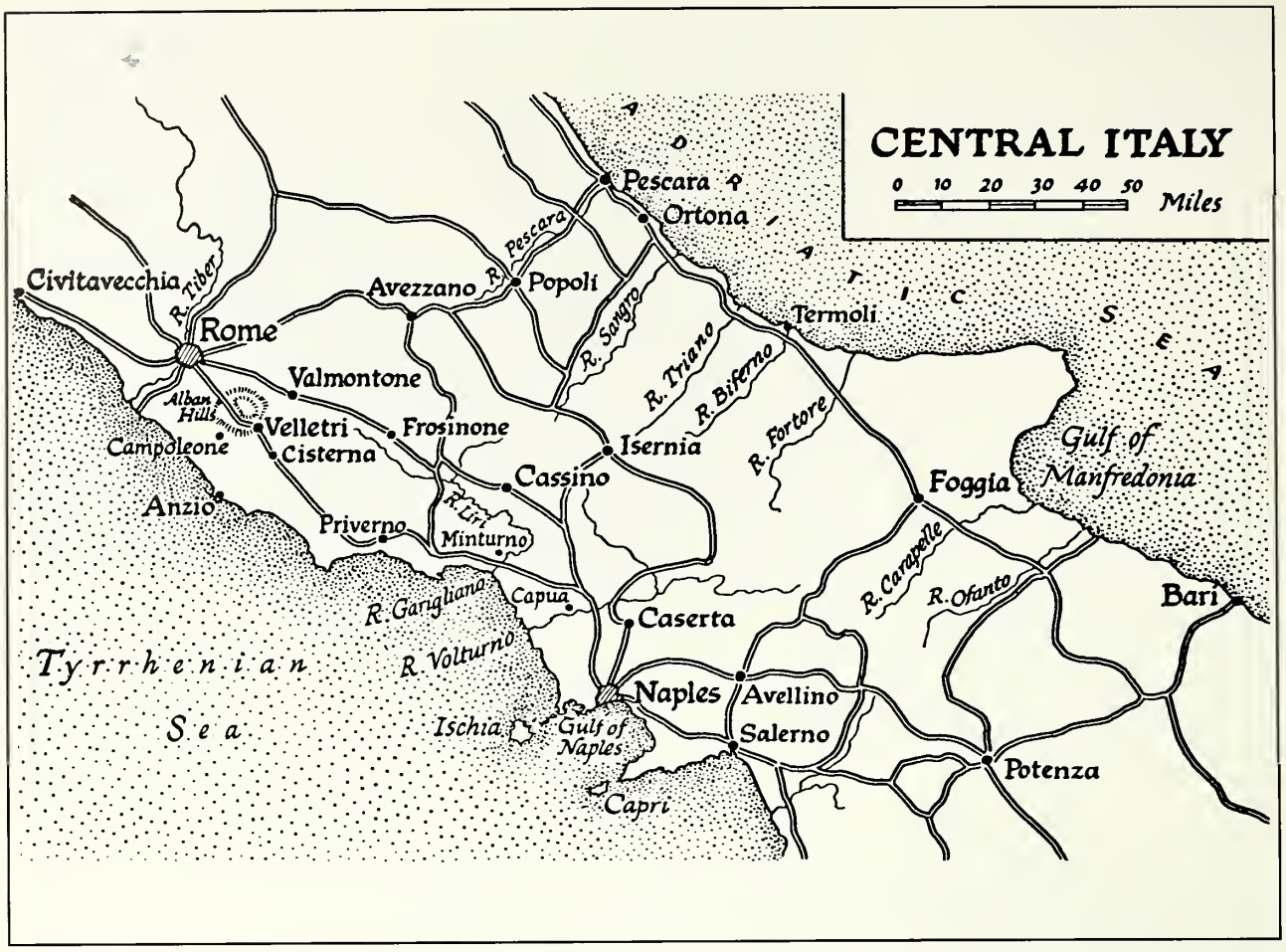
The crossing of the Volturno was made during the early morning hours of November 4th following a 30-minute artillery barrage. The river was low and not swift, and the crossing was not contested strongly by the Germans. But on the western side of the river stretched 1500 yards of vineyards and olive trees to the foothills and this expanse had been mined heavier than any other mine-field seen so far. Six battalions of the three regiments coordinated their assault but there was no time to clear the mine fields if they were to reach the foothills before dawn. To be caught in the open field in daylight would be sheer suicide. The men formed up in single file columns and picked their way through the field in darkness. When one man triggered an S-mine and fell the file moved up to close ranks; this was a disciplined force. With each explosion the Germans in the hills beyond lit the night with flares and raked the field with machine gun fire. Just before dawn all units reached the foothills and had begun the climb into the mountains.

The northward and now westward thrust of the Fifth Army was beginning to close in on the enemy's "winterstellung" or winter defense line which stretched from the Tyrrhenian coast about half way between Rome and Naples, through Cassino northeastward across the Italian peninsula to Ortona on the Adriatic Sea, the whole about 80 miles in length. The approaches were defended by outpost units who were to delay at all costs the approaches to this line. The line itself was a marvel of defense. Bunkers were blasted out of solid rock, reinforced with steel, concrete, and railroad ties so they were virtually immune to artillery fire. The line was well-stocked with supplies and ammunition, and defended with every infantryman the Germans could spare from the Russian front.

The 34th was to thrust westward clearing opposition to the approaches to the German winterline (also known as the Gustav Line) taking all towns and hills as necessary until reaching the western anchor of the line at Cassino about 15 miles to the west, along the Rapido River. The 3rd and 45th Divisions would coordinate attacks on the left and right flanks of the 34th. It is not possible to detail all of the bitter fighting that took place in the nearly three months between the third Volturno crossing on November 3rd to the initial assault on Monte Cassino on January 24th, 1944. But some aspects of this furious, hill by hill, town by town cross-country thrust cannot be ignored.

One objective of the 34th was the hilltop town of Roccaravindola, about a mile from the river. Then 2nd Battalion of the 168th was assigned the assault on this hill and they were almost immediately pinned down by well-camouflaged machine gun nests and mortar positions. At this time one T/Sgt. R.C. von Ripper took a patrol of 12 men up the slopes to the town itself, entered the town and with some persuasion with hand grenades, captured and returned with 17 prisoners. The enemy garrison withdrew following this daring maneuver and the 2nd Battalion entered the town and its high ground, unopposed.

The 100th, 1st, and 3rd Battalions of the 133rd, and the 3rd Battalion of the 168th, and the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 135th took hill after hill, town after town in this furious onslaught: Santa Maria Olivetto; Manella; Selvone; Montaquila; and Colli. By November 15th all



units of the Fifth Army had reached the German winter line; all opposition south of this string of fortresses had been swept clean, but at a terrible cost. In the 34th Division alone more than 1600 men had been killed, wounded or were missing since the first week in October. 5200 additional casualties were recorded in other units of the Army.

The advance was now halted for a two week period. The Division troops were exhausted and refitting and replacements were needed. During this period action was limited to reconnaissance and information gathering on the German positions along their defense line. And, for the first time in Italy, the troops were shipped bedrolls and were being served hot meals - all brought up to the front by mules or on the backs of men. The rains, mud and occasional snows had made road travel all but impossible.

Bloody Monte Pantano

On November 29th the attack resumed. All three Regiments were to press westward, the 168th in the center with its objective the 3300 foot Monte Pantano, its peak 1600 feet above the valley below. This mountain was configured in four projections or knobs at its top, forming a square. The attack began at 0600 hours and in three hours the 1st Battalion reached the southeast knob following a rolling artillery barrage. A fire fight ensued in which the Battalion killed several Germans and captured others. There then followed an unending series of counter attacks by the defenders, but the 168th held its position. The fighting was hand to hand and savage. Guns were fired at point blank range. The dead on both sides mounted all during the day. When night fell the Germans began their artillery and mortar barrage on the Battalion's position. In a thick fog the Germans then launched a night attack on the knob. Hand grenade battles at 15 yards range and wave after wave of enemy attacks were repelled by bayonets. The Germans finally withdrew after inflicting heavy casualties. Keeping the Battalion supplied with ammunition, and evacuating the wounded was extremely difficult; mules could make it up the slope only two-thirds of the way, and then men took over to the top. Each side caught its breath on the morning of the 30th, but the afternoon saw several German attacks which were broken up by small arms fire. More mortar and artillery pounding by the enemy was absorbed that evening. Finally the Battalion felt strong enough to break out of its position to attack the northwest knob of this mountain complex. Five hours of the bloodiest hand to hand combat ensued. Seven separate waves of German assaults were repelled until finally they were driven down the slopes and the second knob was taken. German counterattacks resumed on the 1st and 2nd of December, 1943, but all were repelled, the 168th gaining ground, yard by yard. This gruelling fighting could not go on much more for either the 168th or the Germans. For another full week they slugged it out but finally, totally exhausted, the 168th was relieved. Fresh troops from other units would finally dislodge the Germans from this peak, but the 168th had taken the top and in ten days of the bitterest fighting on record had inflicted enormous casualties on the enemy. The 168th had made a serious break in the German winter line. The 1st Battalion was awarded a unit citation by the War Department for its outstanding performance at Monte Pantano. The 34th Division, on December 12th, withdrew to San Angelo d'Alife for rest and training. For the next two weeks the Division was refitted and absorbed and trained replacements for those units that sustained particularly heavy losses since the third crossing of the Volturno River. The Division was lucky enough to have Christmas dinner at a table rather than in a foxhole. Warm, dry clothes, baths, hot meals and sleep at night brought the morale of the Division back to a high level after the carnage at Pantano. But it would soon end; these were seasoned troops that had learned how to survive in modern warfare and their courage and knowledge was needed as the assault continued on the German winter line. On December 30th the Division relived the exhausted 36th Division which had undergone day and night combat for six weeks without relief. The sector to be occupied was near San Pietro Infine barely five miles east of Cassino with orders to press forward toward the bastion taking all high points en route. The 142nd Regimental Combat Team of the 36th was detached to the 34th for this operation. The Division was to attack a north-south range of hills flanking Highway 6 which ran directly to Cassino. Beyond this range was a flat plain to the Rapido River and Cassino dominated by the lone Monte Trocchio, two miles southeast of the town.

With relief of the 36th completed (in a blinding snowstorm and gale force winds) the Division jumped off on January 4th, 1944. The 135th drove west toward San Vittore at the base of Monte La Chiaia. The 168th bypassed San Vittore and sped toward Cervaro, two miles to

the northwest. The 135th fought their way to the outskirts of San Vittore and by the evening of the 5th were in the town fighting house by house. This furious man on man combat continued throughout the 6th of January until the enemy finally had had enough and withdrew to the surrounding hills. The 135th gave them no rest. The entire regiment swept the enemy from Monte La Chiaia in a rout.

The 168th had a tougher time in their longer overland route to Cervaro. They began their thrust at 1830 hours on January 4th. The lead company was ambushed, 69 men being captured. At 0600 hours on January 6th, the rest of the Regiment pushed off, this time a little more wary. En route, the units were pinned down more than once in their advance by machine gun fire from overlooking hills and from isolated farm houses. Eventually all resistance fell before this assault, although the going was slow. By January 10th, the 168th had forced the enemy back into Cervaro. There then followed two days of the bloodiest bayonet and grenade combat in the streets of the ruined town. The Germans now were desperate to stop the attack on their winter line, fearing it would be breached before it was ready. Cervaro fell to the 168th on January 12th, the 2nd Battalion receiving a unit citation from the War Department for its actions. All regiments then forced westward across the plains and low hills toward Monte Trocchio - and Cassino. A great plan of attack had been formulated to take Trocchio but it turned out to be unnecessary: The enemy had wisely decided to abandon the promentory and retreat across the Rapido River to Cassino, not wishing to be isolated from his main source of supplies. But the cost to the Fifth Army was mounting; now a total of more than 8800 men killed, wounded or missing in this drive to the winter line.

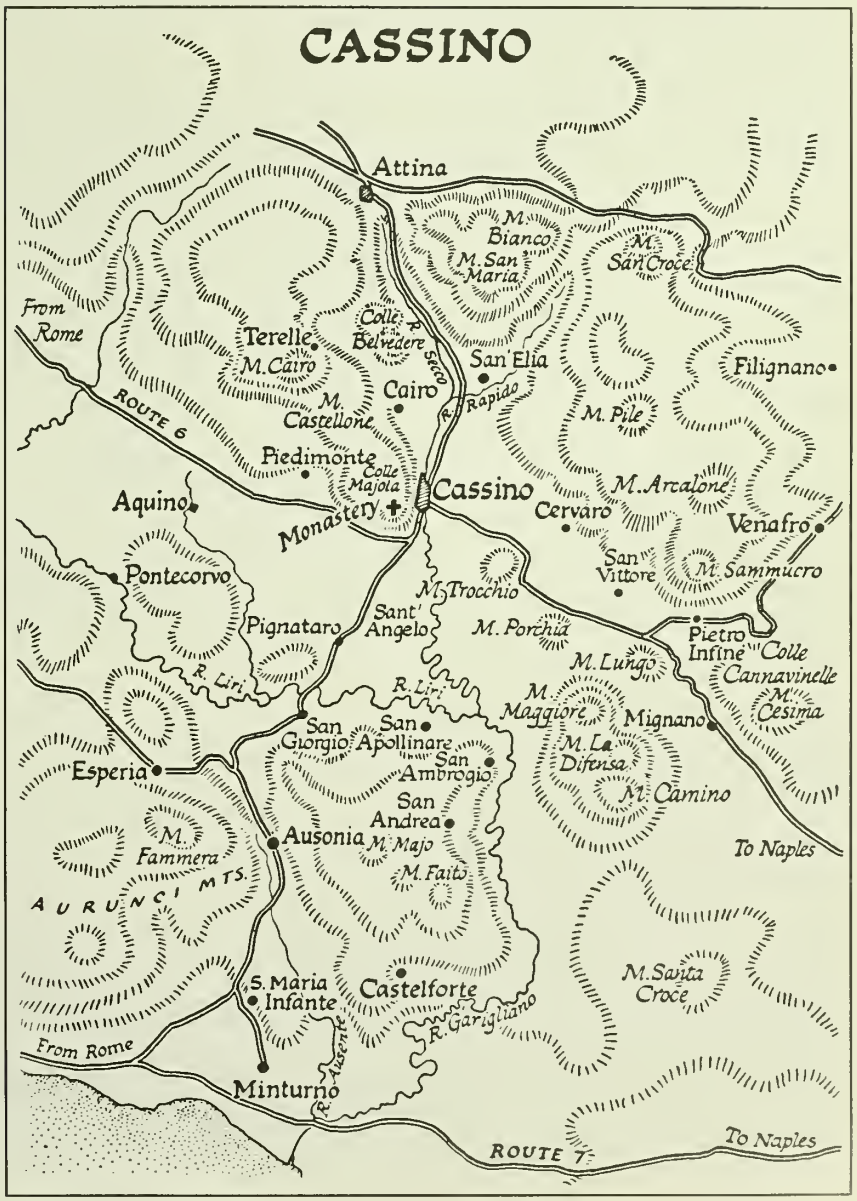
Cassino was Kesselring's western anchor of the winter defense line; if Cassino held the line would hold. If Cassino was lost to the Allies the road to Rome would be open. It was now obvious that the next great engagement would be against the winter line itself and the point of attack would be Monte Cassino. In the hope of preventing enemy reinforcements from reaching Cassino once the attack had begun, Allied forces had established a beachhead at the coastal town of Anzio, about 35 miles south of Rome, on January 22nd. The hope was realized, for the Germans were required to commit elements of eight divisions to contain the beachhead.

The Assault on Cassino

A series of attempts to cross Rapido south of the town of Cassino by the 36th Division met with great enemy resistance and each attempt was thrown back. The 34th was then ordered to cross the river north of the town, and the attack jumped off late on the night of January 24th. In mud, rain, sleet and bitter cold the 133rd cleared mine fields and barbed wire on the east bank of the Rapido and forced a crossing only to be driven back by murderous machine gun and mortar fire. The 133rd was forced to regroup and the 168th then made its assault on the river. Against impossible odds, the Regiment gained the far bank and pushed inland about a half mile. Tanks became bogged down in the deep mud on the east bank but they kept their guns working to support the infantry assault. For the next four days American troops poured across the river, quickly mopping up the enemy machine gun and mortar units that had wreaked such devastation on the initial assaulting troops. By January 29th the Engineers had built strong enough bridges to send over the Division's tanks. The 142nd and the 168th made a great encircling movement to the north, and then curled south to take the hills to the north of Monte Cassino. The 135th made a direct westward thrust to these same hills while the 133rd attacked the town of Cassino itself from the north. The enemy realized that his position was in jeopardy and brought in a Panzer and a parachute division from the Adriatic coast across the peninsula. Hand to hand combat raged for nearly two weeks as the Division gradually got closer to Monte Cassino, crowned by its famous and ancient abbey. On February 12th and 13th units of the 133rd and 168th reached the outer perimeter of the summit only to be hurled back. All during this time the Allies had refused to bomb the famous abbey on the summit, recognizing it as a valued religious site. But there was no doubt that the Germans were using it as a refuge and observation post. While the battle for the summit was going on other units of the 133rd were in a house by house, even room by room battle for the town itself. By February 12th one half the town had fallen. The fighting on the mountain continued for two more days, but by now the Division had sustained so many losses that its effectiveness was compromised. Enemy bayonets, hand grenades and the incessant rains and snows had taken their toll. On February 14th the 135th and the 168th were replaced by a British Division, some of our men so tired they could not raise themselves from their foxholes on the mountain side. The next day the Air Corps destroyed the abbey atop Monte Cassino. We had failed to reach our objective, but it is a matter of military record that we were replaced by five Allied Divisions, and that's what it took to conquer Cassino. The summit and the town finally fell on May 18th, almost four months after the initial attack by the 34th.

The 34th Lands at Anzio

The Red Bulls, battered from the carnage at Cassino, were sent to a rest area near San Angelo d'Alife along the Volturno for refitting and replacements. The 133rd was here joined by its 2nd Battalion which had been assigned guard duty at Allied Headquarters in Algiers during the Tunisian campaign. These men who had no battle experience now underwent rigorous train-



ing by their combat-hardened parent Regiment. The "rest" period for the Division was short-lived. On March 11th orders were issued for the 34th to embark for the Anzio beachhead, 30 miles south of Rome, which had been established over six weeks before. The Division moved by LST's from near Naples to Anzio over a period of nine days between March 17th and the 26th.

The beachhead was a scene to behold: 70,000 men and 18,000 vehicles of every description were crammed into a space measuring about 19 miles along the coast and no more than ten miles inland at the deepest point of penetration. The beachhead was under day and night fire from enemy artillery dug in on the mountains a few miles inland; so great was the Allied concentration on the beach that the enemy couldn't miss even if he were firing blind. The Allies suffered enormous casualties during this pounding. The newly-arrived 34th shared in this constant rain of enemy shells for two weeks after it joined this force. Its battalions went out on patrols and raiding parties, destroying the enemy wherever it found their advance units, and returning with many prisoners. Finally, with the fall of Cassino imminent, the order came for the breakout on May 23rd, 1944. The 34th was assigned the center of the perimeter and after a deafening barrage of artillery beginning at 0600 hours, the Division thrust east and north toward the foothills about five miles distant. The ultimate goal was Rome. German resistance was furious; hand to hand combat, grenades, and point-blank firing range was the order of the day. By noon the Cisterna-Albano railroad had been cut by the 135th, some two miles from jump-off. By noon the next day the road to Rome was cut by the 133rd. The 135th then joined the 168th in a night attack on May 25th striking north to secure hills overlooking the town of Velletri. The breakout was a well-coordinated attack in all sectors and every unit of this massive force reached its objective, but the cost was high. Two men from Company B, Sgt. G.G. Hall and T/Sgt. E.A. Dervishian were each awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor beyond the call of duty. Within three days the German 362nd Division had been annihilated. Through May 26th and 27th our troops made rapid gains northwestward. The enemy put up fierce resistance at Villa Crocetta. Seven separate attacks on this fortress by the 168th between May 29th and June 1st were repelled, the Regiment suffering heavy losses. Finally a merciless barrage by the 175th artilleryman reduced the town to rubble, and the enemy with-

Taken at Anzio Beachhead in Italy (Omen J. Koelker)

Listening to Axis Sally on razor blade radio at Anzio Beachhead. (Courtesy of Waldon H. Johnson)

Ambulance dug in at Anzio Beachhead. (Courtesy of V. Jacobson)

drew. The 133rd then pushed to Lanuvio, defended by the crack German 4th Parachute Division. On June 3rd the 2nd Battalion fought its way into the city. The German armies were now in full retreat, and on the early evening of June 4th, 1944, the 168th, passing through the 133rd, entered the southern outskirts of Rome. The first European capital had fallen to the Allies. Two days after the fall of Rome, June 6th, Allied forces invaded the French coast of Normandy in perhaps the greatest amphibious assault in history. The German homeland was now under the gun from France to its west and from Italy to its south.

The Furious Pursuit To The Arno

The 34th did not pause in Rome; it crossed the Tiber River and immediately pursued the fleeing enemy northward, day and night, occasionally relieving the lead battalion so as to present fresh troops to the German rear units. The pursuit of the enemy northward along the west coast of Italy was a furious race beset with confusion. The 168th entered and seized Civitavecchia on June 7th, 40 miles north of Rome, and on the same day the 133rd, having passed through the 168th, arrived at the town of Tarquinia, 12 miles further north, where they occupied all commanding hills overlooking the town. A regiment of the 91st Division was then brought up and in one swift attack the town fell. The 135th, having been attached to the 1st Armored Division, raced due north to the town and airfield at Viterbo, some 20 miles inland from Tarquinia, and then turned west to the coast. These furious attacks were met with delaying resistance eveyrwhere, but the enemy was on the run and his losses were much greater than our own. The Division had almost spent itself in this mad dash northward and it was halted for a rest, assembling at Tarquinia on June 125th. Fresh troops from other units now took up the pursuit as the 34th started a two-week, rest, training, and refitting period.

During this brief period out of the line, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team joined the Division; all Japanese-Americans, it had been decided by Allied Command that the experimental attachment of the 100th "Nisei" Battalion had been so successful (the 100th had proved itself in combat over and over again as a first class fighting unit) that the Division had earned a fourth Regiment. The 100th was assigned to the new 442nd. It is a matter of record that when the 100th was detached to participate in the invasion of southern France, these brave men refused to remove the Red Bull Patch from their sleeves. Ancestry was of no concern: these men were and always will be soldiers of the 34th.

The 34th Resumes the Chase

On June 24th, their two weeks over and with the 34th now a "square" Division, the men moved to the front which, by this time, was some 75 miles northward from Tarquinia. On the 26th, the 133rd and the 442nd, disembarking from their truck transports, almost at once came up against an enemy delaying line near the town of Survereto. The 442nd was assigned the job of taking the town and its 100th Battalion, in brilliant flanking sweep, overran the enemy command post, killing and capturing many Germans and much equipment. The Battalion was awarded a Unit Citation for this daring action. The 442nd, without pausing, pushed forward to Belvedere a short distance beyond. The 100th again led the attack and in a fierce fight the Regiment took the town. It was a remarkable engagement: enemy losses were 271 (78 killed, 20 wounded, 73 captured) and losses to the 442nd were 9 (1 killed, 8 wounded). The 442nd continued the rush northward, reaching the Arno River on July 23rd.

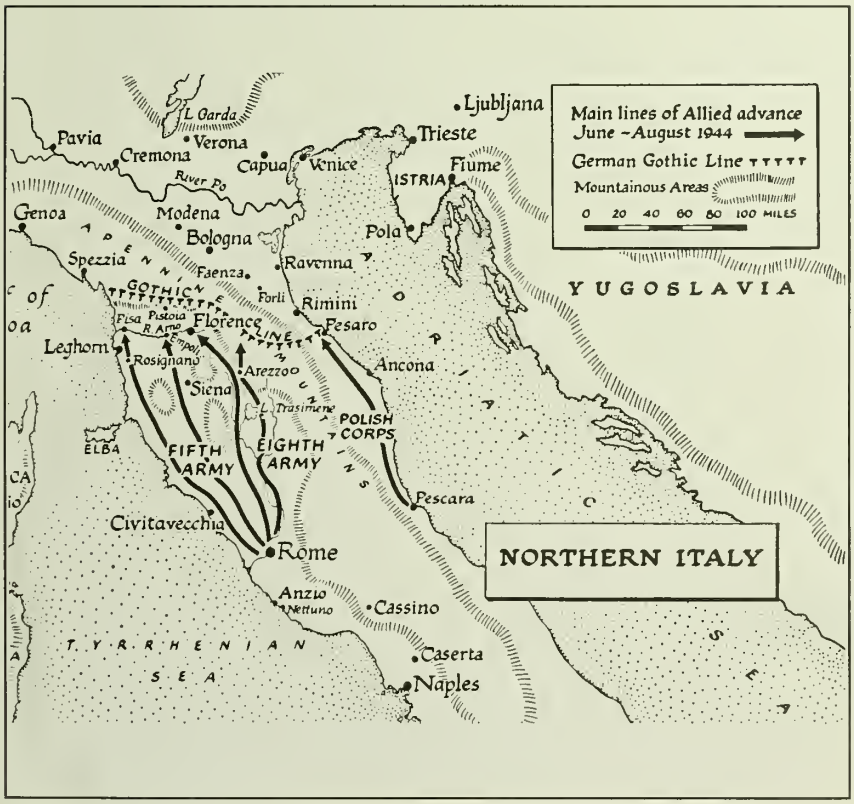
Barclay and M/Sgt. Max Carter. (Courtesy of James P. Ryan)

The 133rd was also speeding north on coastal Highway 1, town after town falling in its path. San Vincenzo fell on June 26th, Cecina on July 2nd, then after a 5-day rest period, drove north to take Monte Maggiore on the 10th, and Mont Alto on the 13th. In the 12 following days the Regiment captured Tripalle, LaGuardia, Colle Lauale, and Lorenzano, and on July 23rd reached the Arno.

The 135th similarly was racing along the coast. On June 29th Bibbona fell, and the Regiment advanced to take the heavily defended city of Rosignano, a chemical manufacturing center and, perhaps not so strangely, untouched by bombs. The dominating hills to the east had to be taken first, which the 135th accomplished but with heavy losses. On July 11th the Regiment attacked the city and in bitter street by street fighting secured the target. Dead bodies of Germans and civilians alike littered the streets; all were cremated. The 135th was now ordered to attack Leghorn and by July 17th the Regiment reached the hills overlooking this important seaport. From Tarquinia, the 168th moved north with the rest of the Division, taking hill after hill often against bitter opposition, and captured the town of Monteverdi on June 28th. Castiglioncello fell on June 29th, and Castellina on July 6th after a bloody battle. The 168th joined the 133rd at Lorenzano, capturing the town on July 15th. The 168th then turned north, bypassing Leghorn, and joined the 133rd at the Arno.

At this time Allied Command decided that every effort should be made to take Leghorn rather than clearing out enemy forces to the Arno.

Consequently, all four Regiments with the addition of the 363rd from the 91st Division, pressed toward the city. By July 17th this gigantic force of 36,000 men drew within striking distance of Leghorn, rolling back elements of four German divisions. The 363rd and the 135th



"Red" Kennedy reading the *Stars and Stripes* the day after Rome fell. (Courtesy of August Halliday)

entered the city almost simultaneously from different directions. By this time the enemy had seen the hopelessness of his situation, and to prevent being cut off, withdrew the bulk of his forces north to the Arno. In hot pursuit, the Division arrived at the south bank of the Arno, across the Pisa, on July 23rd. The 363rd was assigned the assault on Pisa which fell to them on July 24th, 1944. The 34th was then replaced in the line by the 91st and the Red Bull was sent to the rear for a well earned rest. At this time, General Ryder turned over command of the 34th to Major General Charles L. Bolte, who was to see the Division through to its final days in Italy. General Ryder had held the reins of the 34th since June of 1942.

The 34th Rests, Regroups and Trains For The Final Thrust

The Fifth Army was now so exhausted from its furious drive north from Anzio two months ago, that a period of rest and refitting was necessary. For the next five weeks, until September 1st, there would be a halt at the Arno while all units recuperated. It would give the enemy a rest too, but nothing could be done about that except to harass him with constant medium bomber and fighter attacks from the air. At this time the German air force almost ceased to exist; his home factories had been bombed to uselessness by B-17's from England and B-24's from southern Italy and his supplies of oil and gasoline shut off. B-25 Mitchells based in Corsica made daily "milk runs" on the Brenner Pass at the Austrian-Italian border in the Alps, sharply curtailing the flow of supplies for waging the war in Italy.

During his long retreat northward up the boot of Italy, the Germans had time to build three major lines of defense in northern Italy: the first was the Arno Line in the mountains rising from the plains just north of the Arno River then swinging south of Florence and continuing on to the Adriatic Sea; the second was the Gothic Line, beginning about 15 miles north of Pisa in the west, again running eastward through the Futa and Gioga passes in the central mountains, thence to Pesaro on the Adriatic; the third, the Appenine Line, ran along the peaks of the high mountains overlooking the fertile Po River Valley, this line about 50 miles north of the Arno. All these defensed had to be breached to reach the Po Valley. It was hoped that this feat could be accomplished by the time the harsh alpine winter set in, but it could not be done.

The Fall Attack Begins

The American IV Corps in the west, the American II Corps in the center (of which the 34th was a part) and the British 8th Army in the east all struck the Arno Line together on September 1st. The 34th did not enter this attack until September 10th, 1944. By nightfall the 133rd had captured hill after hill and had penetrated five miles north of the Arno. The 168th had fought its way 16 miles north to the slopes of Monte Frassino where a night attack on the summit was repelled by the enemy. The 135th came up to relieve the pinned down 168th. All units drove forward again on the 12th and by the end of that day, the Arno Line had been crushed and the 34th was facing the southern edge of the German's second row of fortifications, the Gothic Line.

By September 17th Giogo and Futa passes had fallen to the 85th and 91st Divisions in bloody fighting. The 133rd breached the Gothic Line at Montepiano, about 25 miles north of the Arno, on September 23rd, and the 168th took the high hills overlooking that town. By the last week in September there was virtually nothing left of the enemy's second line of defense, the Gothic Line. The victories were tempered by sadness however. Col. William Schildroth who had joined the 133rd at Anzio as its "fighting commander" was killed by an enemy mine.

By September 30th the 34th had advanced across nearly 30 miles of rugged terrain and against bitter, dug-in resistance to the outskirts of Farnelli. Those that fought with the 34th will remember many of the names of the villages, towns, and hills taken in this race north: Monte Maggiore, Monte il Prataccio, La Dogana hill, Highway 65 and Road 6620, Monte Coroncina, Monte Bastione, Bruscoli, and Montefredente. All fell before the assault of the 34th. The attack continued; there would be no rest for the enemy - or for us. Monte Galletto and, beyond, Monte Venere were the next objectives. The 133rd and the 168th worked as a team in this drive. The advance was slowed by a rain of mortar fire and mine fields which were bypassed. The mortar fire came from the village of Cedreccia which was shelled by our artillery and tank destroyers. Bangalore torpedos broke up barbed wire defenses. The 2nd Battalion of the 133rd cleared the village by noon of October 2nd. The 3rd Battalion and three companies of the 2nd Battalion then thrust toward Galletto meeting fierce resistance and at dawn of October 3rd assaulted the peak only to find the enemy had withdrawn. The 1st Battalion sped toward Monte Venere, the main objective, taking the summit on the afternoon of October 3rd.

The 168th slugged forward in parallel with the 133rd, taking hill after hill and capturing

Achtung
Minen!
Attenzione
Mine!
MINES
NOT
SWEPT

San Benedetto and Campiano rolling before them machine gun and mortar companies of the elite S.S. Panzer Grenadier troops of the German 16th Division. The 133rd captured Monzuna on October 5th and then teamed up with the 135th to assault the Monterumici Hills. After a two day bloody battle, October 8th and 9th, this objective was in our hand. The 34th had advanced by this time some 35 miles north of the Arno.

We should digress briefly here to note that American forces assaulted southern France on August 15th, 1944. The forces for this landing (operation "Anvil") were drawn from the front in Italy, a force amounting eventually to the equivalent of seven divisions. The Fifth Army alone was cut by 97,000 men, including the 3rd, 36th and 45th Divisions, and two French Divisions. There has always remained some controversy that the operations in Italy might have reached a conclusion during the early winter of 1944-1945 had the Fifth not been so decimated. Right or wrong, the battle for Italy was to continue for four months into the new year.

Forces on the central Italian front, having pushed further northward than all other units attacking beyond the Gothic line, were given a few days rest before starting the next offensive. Then, on October 16th, the three Divisions holding the central sector (the 34th, 85th and 88th) were ordered to attack. In lightning thrusts and against stiff opposition, the 133rd and the 168th with tank support took the village of Crocetta; the 168th moved on to seize Tazzola and on the 18th took the summit of Monte Vigna. The race forward by the 168th was stopped at Hill 461 where the Regiment met a strong enemy defense line.

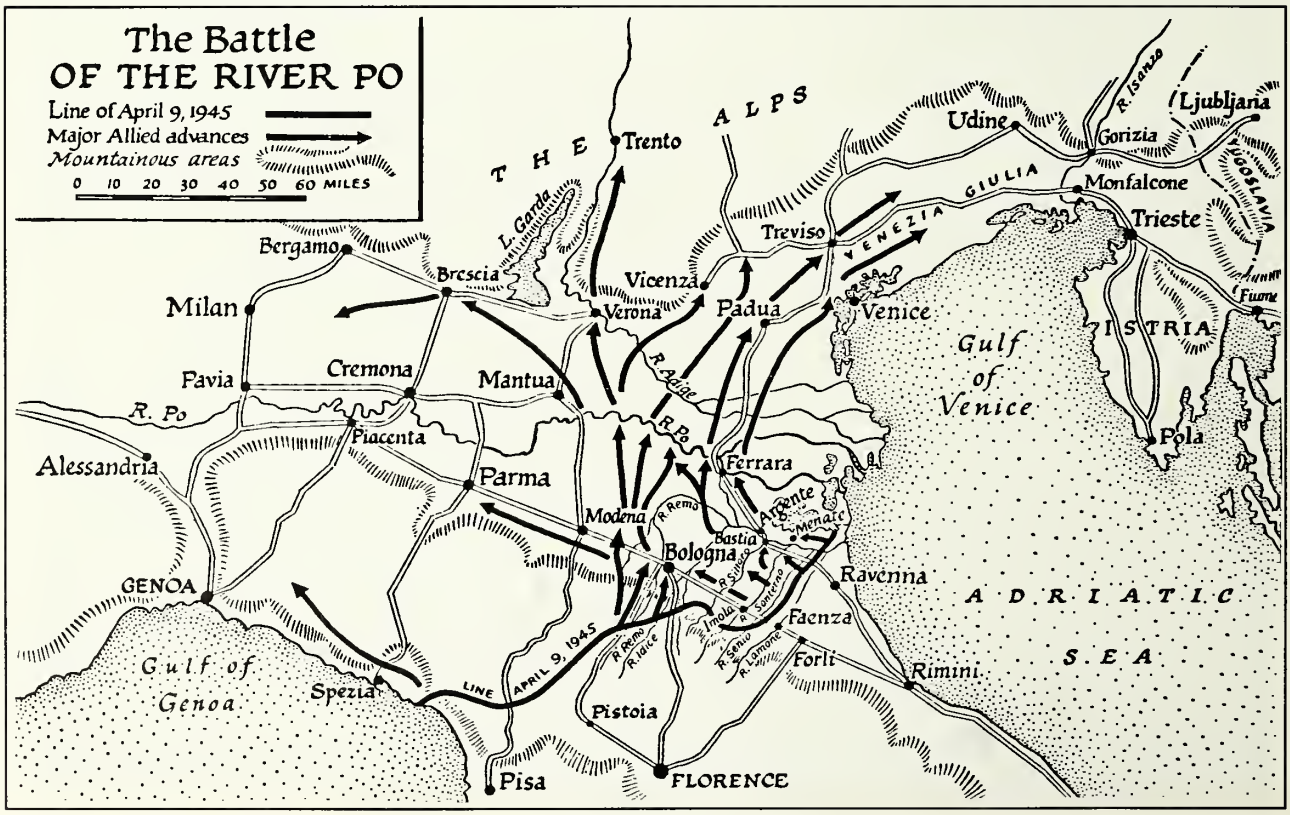
In the meantime, the 133rd was having its problems in its advance. The objective was Monte Belmonte, a high mass of rocky ridges on the highway to Bolonga, and the point of farthest advance of the 34th Artillery.

L to R: S/Sgt. Mike Kometz and P.F.C. Alex Lambros - Company "M" 133rd Inf. Regt. (Courtesy of Gale Wilkins)

The Final Attack. The Appenine Line Crumbles

This stalemate along the Appenine Line continued for the next three and a half months into 1945, punctuated only by patrol action along the entire front. Both sides built up their fighting forces during this long period, although the enemy was probably worse off than the Allied forces. German armies could be supplied only from the north across the Po River, and Allied bombings had destroyed every bridge across the river; his supplies were reaching his 27 Divisions in a trickle. He had plenty of ammunition, built over the past years, but fuel was in short supply. With the coming of warmer weather and melting of the winter snows, the final attack on the Appenine Line and the Po Valley got under way. Troops in the western sector jumped off on April 15th and those in the central sector, including the 34th, on the next day, following an incredibly fierce artillery and air bombardment over the previous 48 hours. April 16th marked the 500th day of combat for the Red Bull Division. Captured enemy soldiers related the terrible ordeal they went through during this two-day bombardment.

The 168th spearheaded the attack northward toward Bologna, now only ten miles away. Within four days all units of the Division had reached a position only five miles south of this great city. The drive was no walk-over; The enemy realized that once his line had been breached and Allied troops were in the Po Valley, it would be only a matter of weeks before his armies would be cut to pieces by our supe-



23 April 1945 Modena Area, Italy. 34th Recon. weapon of the 34th Div. fires its guns on a fascist stronghold. (Courtesy of C.W. Eberle, Sr.)

rior tank and air forces. Resistance was often fanatical. He made stands on the ridges, on hill tops, in farm houses, in churches, and in cemeteries. Both the 133rd and the 135th were held in reserve for this thrust, following the 168th in a mopping-up role. The Appenine Line had been destroyed in the central sector by the attack of the 34th, and the Division regrouped on Highway 65 for the rush into Bologna. The highway was an unbelievable scene: the villages and buildings along the road had been pulverized by artillery and air bombing; dead German troops lay in some places almost shoulder to shoulder; vehicles of every description were shattered, some still burning. The 133rd then was ordered forward to take Bologna; its 3rd Battalion arrived at the outskirts at dawn on April 21st. The Germans had withdrawn north of the city. Polish units of the British 8th Army arrived from the east almost simultaneously. We had entered the Po Valley and it was now only a matter of time before all German resistance in Italy would be quelled.

In the ensuing ten days a type of chaotic warfare never before seen by the Allied Armies took place in the broad plains of the Po River. The speed of this thrust, north and west, resulted in cutting off large pockets of German divisions; they were everywhere, to our flanks, to our rear, to our front, resulting in numerous small but often fierce engagements. The IV Corps struck north to the Brenner Pass at the Austrian border, and west as far as their supplies and ammunition could take them. The 133rd pushed 27 miles west past Modena on April 23rd, then to Reggio where the enemy put up a brief stand before being driven out. Prisoners were streaming in from the south as their units were desperately trying to prevent their cut-off by this chaotic attack westward of the 34th. By April 25th the 133rd was some 15 miles northwest of Reggio, bypassed Fidenza on Highway 9, and took the village of Busseto and 70 prisoners after a sharp engagement. The 133rd then pushed in a mad dash to a point near Parma, 60 miles west of Bologna.

The 168th was having its race, also. Leaving Bologna after the 133rd, the Regiment took Compogalliano, Bagnolo, Massenzatico and Prato, capturing 200 prisoners in this thrust. By April 24th the 168th had joined the 133rd outside Parma. The 135th then moved out of Bologna after a short period of garrison duty there, and proceeded westward, mopping up after her two sister regiments, and arrived in the vicinity of Parma on April 25th. Moving through the 168th, the 135th struck toward Piacenza on the 26th, and by nightfall the 2nd Battalion had taken that town after sharp but brief enemy resistance. Meanwhile the 1st Battalion sent a recon party northeast to Caorso, near the Po River. Told by Italian civilians that the town had been evacuated by the Germans, the party moved into the town and were greeted by the Mayor and the townspeople. Then a German with a burp gun sent a burst toward the throng, scattering them and the recon party for cover. The party, realizing the town was still occupied, set up B.A.R.'s and machine guns. The Germans were in scattered and unorganized groups inside and outside the town. The patrol captured convoys of German vehicles as they entered the town and started a roundup of those inside the town. All day small units of retreating enemy troops entered the village only to be captured by the patrol and by nightfall this small group realized that their situation was fast becoming unmanageable; some 6,000 Germans were now in and around little Caorso. The party radioed for help and other units of the 135th came on in a rush. Detecting these reinforcements, the main enemy body withdrew across the Po, leaving over 600 prisoners behind.

At this time, units of the 34th were scattered along Highway 9 from Modena to Piacenza, a distance of 75 miles. Then, on the evening of April 28th, the Division was ordered to move north to seal off all Alpine passes and prevent the escape of the German armies. The 135th was ordered back to Modena to then swing north, crossing the Po at San Benedetto. This wild 250-mile dash took it to Brescia, 60 miles north of the Po; on the evening of April 29th the 135th rolled into that city. On that same day, additional orders came to the 34th that the enemy's situation was deteriorating so rapidly, the Division should drive toward Milan (Milano), 50 miles west of Brescia. Then news reached the 34th that the Italian Partisans had

Milan, Italy. Mussolini is the third from the left. (Courtesy of Col James A. Lutrell)

liberated Milan and in the process had captured and executed Mussolini,who had been trying to escape to Switzerland. Fascism was born and died in Milan. German troops poured in by the thousands from all directions to surrender to Allied forces. This was a spectacle seen only one before by the 34th, in the closing days of the Tunisian campaign, so long ago. The Division was then assigned the task of reducing and capturing the German 75th Corps to the west. On the 29th and 30th of April, 1944, the Division continued westward, rounding up enemy units and taking thousands of prisoners, some units of the 135th reaching the Swiss border. On May 1st, 1944, the 75th Corps surrendered, among them, the German 34th Division that surrendered to General Bolte's American hostilities. In its mind-numbing sweep westward along the Po Valley, the Red Bull had taken three German divisions and captured 40,000 prisoners. Their fighting in World War II was ended. Five days later, on May 7th at 0241 hours, Germany surrendered unconditionally to American, British and Russian forces at Reims, France.

Post-War Duty of the 34th and Home

The Red Bull had finally reached the end of its long, often brutal mission in Europe. From the landings in Algiers on November 8th, 1943, through Tunisia, Salerno, Monte Pantano, Cassino, and Anzio, to the Arno and the end of the Po campaign on May 2nd, 1945, the 34th had been overseas longer than any other American Division in the army, in combat longer than any other division - 517 days - and one or more units of the Red Bull in detached service had logged 611 days of line combat. At one point the 34th had endured 76 days of uninterrupted fighting. Five enlisted men and six officers had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest recognition for service offered by the United States.

The Division's service was not yet over, however. During the remainder of May and through the month of June, the Division was ordered to the French-Italian border. The French coveted two Italian provinces - Tanda and Brida - and had quickly sent Sengalese troops to that area to claim them for France. The provinces were rich in minerals and water power. General Bolte distributed troops of the 34th at strategic points throughout the two provinces and prevented them from falling into French hands until ownership of the area could be settled by negotiation.

In July the Division was ordered to the Yugoslavia-Italian border on the opposite side of the peninsula. This area was becoming a nationalistic hot spot. The Yugoslavs wished to take over certain parts of Italy along their border and they resented the appearance of American troops at the border. Clash after clash took place in Trieste between Italians and Yugoslavs, and men of the 34th were often caught in between during their patrol duties.

To relieve this mostly monotonous duty the men were given leave to visit some of the more famous places in the area: Venice, other cities in northern Italy, and Switzerland. This duty was to last for some two and a half months when, late in September, 1945, orders were cut to send the Division home. Relieved by the 88th Division, the 34th backtracked over all too familiar territory, 800 miles to Naples. Assembly of the Division was in the same area they had known nearly two years earlier - Collegio Ciano. Then, though seasoned combat veterans, they knew not what lay before them. But now they knew: they were going home. The Division left Naples on October 22nd, 1945, reached Newport News, Virginia, in an uneventful crossing of the Atlantic, and the men mustered out of service on November 3rd, 1945, at Camp Patrick Henry. The Division had left for Ireland in January, 1942, without fanfare, and returned the same way, without ceremony, nearly four years later.

The cost of victory was not cheap for the Red Bull: over 3,700 killed, more than 14,000 wounded, and over 3,400 missing; total casualties in excess of 21,000 men. Most of these brave men will never experience the carnage of war again; for the few that were caught up in Korea and Vietnam, it was all too soon. But this one was over, and the 34th Division, now famous for its exploits, had done its job well.

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The Second World War. Winston S. Churchill. Volume IV, Hinge of Fate. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston. 1950.

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AWARDS, CITATIONS AND COMMENDATIONS WORLD WAR II

Congressional Medal of Honor: 11
Purple Hearts: more than 15,000
Distinguished Service Cross: 98
Legion of Merit: 116
Soldiers Medal: 51
Silver Star: 1052
Bronze Star: 1713
Presidential Citation: 3
Distinguished Service Medal: 1

Distinguished Flying Cross: 1
Air Medal: 34, with 62 Oak Leaf Clusters
Divisional Citation: 525
War Department Meritorious Service Unit Plaque: 6
Army Unit Commendation: 15
British awards: 7
French awards: 7
Italian awards: 6

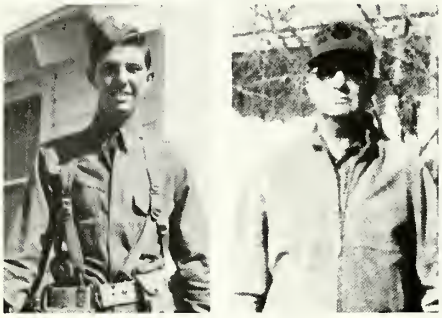
5 Nov. 1943 in Italy. L. to R. Sgt. Raymond T. Martin, Pvt. Allen Pellegrin, Pfc. Hollis Miller, Lt. Erwin Bauer and T/5 Albert Orb. Reccon Sec. H and S Co. 109 Engineers Bn. (C) 34th Inf. Div. (Courtesy of Raymond T. Martin)

VETERANS

Italy 1944. (Courtesy of John J. Suchor)

L. to R.: 1st Lt. Jerome D. Markham, M.C., 1st Lt. Theodore Antonelli, Inf., 2nd Lt. William F. Rickett, A.G.D., 2nd Lt. John Mulhern, Inf., and 1st Lt. Courtney L. Vallentine, A.G.D. (Courtesy of James P. Ryan)

WILLIAM D. AHLSTROM, born Jan. 31, 1922, Boone, IA, in "B" Btry. 185th F.A. Bn. 34th Inf. Div. in high school, mobilized Feb. 10, 1941 to Camp Claibourne, Ft. Dix, on HMS Cathay lost from convoy to North Ireland, England, North Africa action ahead of infantry and attacked by tanks and German infantry, anti tank crews destroyed (three) tanks, no one killed. Saw French military execute (eight) Arabs by a Mosque. To Italy still with WWI 155MM howitzers, strafed by ME 109's vicinity Naples. German counter battery fire on positions several times. January 3, 1944 bombed (13) killed, many wounded. More wounded and killed Anzio, beyond.



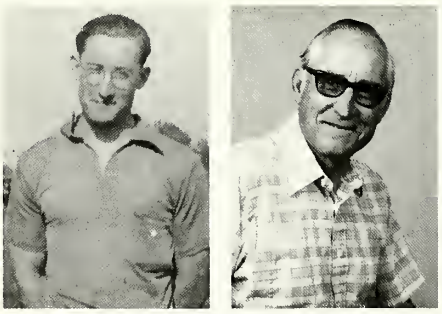
William D. Ahlstrom

New howitzers at last (two) of my battery commanders later became generals, Gerald E. DuBois, Boone, IA and Ted H. Corry, Davenport, IA. 34th Brigade Hq. now located in Boone, also Von Ripper drawings here in armory, also birthplace Mamie Eisenhower.

Was City Treasurer (29) years, (three) children, (six) grandchildren, (three) great grandchildren. Still married to same girl. Revisited Italy July 1985.

CHESTER W. ALLEN, born in Des Moines, IA Jan. 19, 1919. Joined National Guard 168th Inf. Hq. Co. at Jefferson, IA 1941.

Transferred to Service Co. when guards mobilized to Camp Claiborn, LA. Joined supply S-4 sec., worked in supplies to the end of war. Left U.S. from Ft. Dix, NJ in 1942.

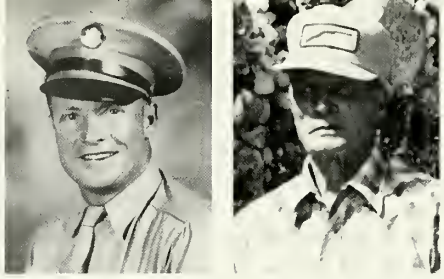


Chester W. Allen

To North Ireland and Scotland for training. Invaded North Africa at Algiers, landed in Italy at Salerno. Served all through the rest of the war. Out in 1945. Wife Jane, two sons, and five daughters — 11 grandchildren. Retired after 39 years as meatcutter for Amends A.B.C. Mkt. in Des Moines.

IRA J. ALLEN, born Sept. 20, 1913 at Boone, IA. Enlisted in Co. E of the 168th Inf. Reg. of the 34th Div., 2nd Bn., Camp Claiborne, LA - Apr. 10, 1941. From Camp Claiborne to Ft. Dix. Went to North Ireland for training. Took part in Africa Campaign. Taken prisoner Feb. 17, 1943. Shipped to Sicily. Transferred to Italy, then to Germany until war ended. Freed by Russia, Apr. 22, 1945.

In service four yrs., five mos., eleven days. Discharged Sept. 20, 1945 on my birthday. At Camp Chaffee, AR.

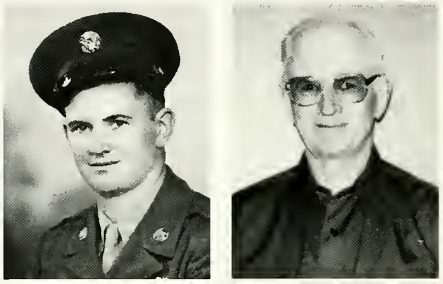


Ira J. Allen

Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon, EAME Service Ribbon with three bronze service stars. Squad leader Sergeant.

Following discharge, have been farming around Hampton, IA. Married Oct. 18, 1941. Has one son and four grandchildren.

ALFRED ALTHOFF, born Aug. 31, 1916 at Mooreton, ND. Was inducted May 7, 1941 at Ft. Snelling, St. Paul, MN and sent to Camp Claibourne, LA; joined the 135th Inf. of the 34th Div. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ and then to Ireland. Served in North Africa and Italy. Was discharged May 18, 1945 from Ft. Snelling. Was given credit for 34 months of overseas duty.



Alfred Althoff

Following discharge, farmed in the Mooreton and Wahpeton areas until retiring. Married in 1948, has a daughter and a son, and four grandchildren.

ARTHUR L. ANDERSON, born Oct. 24, 1919, drafted in April 1942 in East St. Paul, MN. Sent for training to Camp Wolters, TX and shipped to New York and then to Birmingham, England Replacement Center September 1942.

Then assigned to 34th Div. in Ireland and Co. A, 133rd Reg. Late December 1942 left by convoy to North Africa and Tunisia. Co. A - 133rd engaged in a number of combat objectives including Hill #609. I shall remember my Co. A for its skirmish assault of Hill #609 and its struggles on its slopes. (Enclosed picture taken about this time — May 1943. Second picture taken at 34th Div. 40th Reunion.)

Arthur L. Anderson

In September 1943 Company shipped to Salerno, Italy where on Nov. 4, 1943 I was wounded near Olivetto. Returned to States and after six months' hospital stay assigned to Army Ground Forces Replacement Center till end of War. Discharged Oct. 27, 1945.

Returned to St. Paul, MN and worked for 3-M Co. till retiring in 1980. The company manufactured "Scotch" Tape. Married; has two sons and two daughters; eight grandchildren.

DONALD E. ANDERSON, born Milaca, MN on Apr. 5, 1922. Joined Btry. D 125th F.A. 34th Div. at age of 16. Mobilized Feb. 10, 1941. Still in high school.

Trained at Camp Claiborne. After Pearl Harbor went to Ft. Dix. 34th was split up. We went to Ft. Bragg, NC as 194th F.A. got the first 8-inch Howitzers and later became 995th F.A. Bn.

Sent overseas in August 1943. Landed in Oran and conveyed to Tunisia, then went into Italy and stayed until Battle of Cassino was over. We were attached to the English 8th Army.

Donald E. Anderson

July 1944 pulled from lines, reorganized into the 7th Army. They were in the Invasion of Southern France.

Some of us stayed in Italy. I took two months of Infantry Training and was sent up and again was in the 34th Div. Discharged Nov. 14, 1945.

Started restaurant shortly after; sold out 1950. Postal Service until retired in 1980. Started recreation and lunch three years ago.

Wife died of Leukemia at age 50. Have four sons and one daughter.

ROBERT ANDERSON, 34th Inf. Div., 168th Inf. Co. H, I directed mortar shells — Radio man as soon as I attached to Co. H. I went in at the Anzio beachhead just after we were pushed back. They rushed us into combat right away because of the German counterattack.

I received the Bronze Star for directing mortar shells while I was being shelled by German mortars. I don't recall what hill this was on.

I enlisted in Sept. 19, 1943 and discharged in Nov. 21, 1945.

Robert Anderson

I did my training at Camp Blanding, FL-it was a little rough, but I don't think we had it as bad as the fellows that went the other way with the Japanese shooting them in the back-I wouldn't like that at all.

I really can't remember too much more—thanks.

P.S. I took the radio job because I thought that would be the easiest but it ended up I was with the infantry directing fire ahead of our mortars. I was lucky, because I wasn't wounded but I had some close calls.

I am retired now and live at 4216 Roxane Blvd. in Sarasota, FL in the winter months.

WOODROW E. ANDERSON, born Manchester, SD, Nov. 25, 1918. Before I joined the National Guard, I worked for two and one half years as a shoe repairman in Huron, SD, up to December 1939. Also worked as an automobile mechanic's helper for a year.

Joined the National Guard, Co. C 109th Combat Engineers 14th of October 1940. Had my basic training in Camp Claiborn, LA. Prior to going overseas, more training in North Ireland, before heading for North Africa. Served in Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley.

Woodrow E. Anderson

I was a Demolition Specialist and Electrician. Located enemy mines and anti personnel mines, either blew them up or removed them. Blew up bridges and buildings. While overseas I became interested in photography and have been at it since.

I was discharged from the Service at Ft. Snelling, MN on July 20, 1945. Wife Norma and two daughters.

LEROY O. ANSELY, born June 20, 1918 in Lucas Co., IA. Drafted Apr. 23, 1941 at Ft. Des Moines, IA. Sent to Jefferson Barricks, St. Louis, MO to be processed and assigned to 133 Infantry, 34th Division. Left there on our way to Camp Claibrone, LA at Alexandria, LA officers from 185 Field Artillery, 34th Div. boarded the train and said we would be assigned to the 185th Field Artillery, Battery B and made us a happy bunch of guys.

Leroy O. Ansley

From Camp Claibrone we went to Ft. Dix, NJ then North Ireland for training then sent to Tunisia, Africa where were engaged in battle. On to Naples, Italy from there we followed the invasion of the Anzio Beach head and pushed on to Arno.

Was awarded a Good Conduct Medal and American Defense Ribbon. In January 1945 was brought back to the states and reassigned to Ft. Riley, KS. Received discharge Aug. 20, 1945 at Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

Married Feb. 7, 1945 and has five children and 12 grandchildren. He was a crewman and Gunner Corporal on a 155 Howitzer and always proud to be a member of the 34th Division.

JOHN T. APPELHONS, born Chaska, MN, Nov. 2, 1914. Completed schooling, Britt, IA. Three semesters law school, farming prior enlistment. Jan. 14, 1941, Des Moines, IA. C Co. 168th, Iowa National Guard, 34th Inf. Div. Feb. 10, 1941, training Cadre at Camp Claiborne, LA. Ft. Dix prior to North Ireland and Scotland. Invaded Africa at Algiers, survivor of Faid

John T. Appelhons

Pass through Tunisia. Invaded Italy at Salerno, left 34th Div. after Casino Rotation.

March 10, 1944, assigned Camp Croft, SC Infantry Training Regiment. Also at Ft. Bragg, NC prior to discharge September 1945. 25 months overseas.

Decorations include: American Defense, ETO/four Battle Stars, Invasion Arrowhead, Good Conduct, Expert Rifleman, Expert Pistol, Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Purple Heart w/two Oak Leaf Clusters, Letter of Commendation Commanding Col. 7th Inf. Training Reg., Also from Commanding General Infantry Replacement Training Center, Camp Croft, SC WWII Victory Medal.

Back to farming Mar. 1, 1946, East of Britt, IA. Wife, Emma, two sons, four grandchildren. Moved to Thompson, IA Mar. 1, 1955. Entire combat time as Platoon Sergeant, and Platoon leader.

ANDREW ALFRED ARCHER, was born Mar. 1, 1919 in Ogallala, NE. He joined the service Nov. 19, 1942, Infantry Wire Section.

Andrew Alfred Archer

Stationed at Camp Roberts, CA, New Jersey, Casablanca, Africa and Italy. One night while at a monastery in Italy, Corporal Archer was wounded. He received the Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart and Silver Star. Discharged as Corporation in October 1944.

On Dec. 11, 1941 was married to Ethel M. Trunnell and they have one child (living) and one grandchild. He was the owner of a trucking business and retired in January 1984.

GERARD A. AUEN, born Pittsburgh, PA Feb. 1, 1912. Joined the Army 1942. Trained at Camp Wheeler, GA. Position as anti-tank gunner in Anti-tank Co., 168th Inf. Was in the Algeria-French Morocco Campaign.

Gerard A. Auen

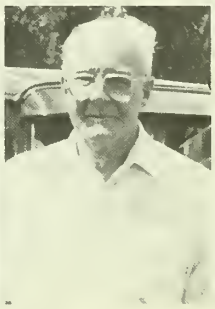
Left Ft. Dix to Northern Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Invaded Africa at Algiers. Captured by Germans at Kasserine Pass. Was a prisoner three years. Liberated July 1945. Has Bronze Star, three Campaign and Service medals. Discharged in August 1945. Wife, Bette, three daughters, one son, eight grandchildren. Worked as barber before getting job as postal worker. Retired since 1972.

CARROLL BABER, born near Carlisle, IA, Sept. 15, 1918. Was inducted into service at Ft. Des Moines, IA. May 9, 1941, going directly to Co. A 133rd Inf. at Camp Claiborne, LA for training as a Mortar crewman. From Claiborne to Ft. Dix, NJ and left for North Ireland Jan. 15, 1942. Invaded N. Africa, on to Tunis, then on to the Invasion of Italy at Salerno. Promoted to Corporal and Squad Leader until the battle of Casino. Hospitalized for two months and returned to the U.S. in August 1944 - 33 months overseas. Discharged June 1945. Awarded Combat Infantry Badge, EAME Theater Ribbon with two bronze stars, American Defense Service Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon.

Department Commander of American Legion, State of Nevada 1967-1968, Life Member of VFW Post 3547, Ely, NV.

Retired as Postmaster and reside with wife, Hazel, at Ely, NV.

JOSEPH A. BAKER, native of South Dakota and graduate of South Dakota State University. Worked with Homestake Mining Company after graduation from college until going on active duty with the United States Army Corp of Engineers in 1940. Remained with the Corps of Engineers as a career officer until retirement.



Joseph A. Baker

Wartime overseas duty included Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy in WWII with the 34th Inf. Div., and Korea with the Engineer Div., HQ, 8th United States Army. Peacetime overseas assignments included Command responsibility for airfield construction and maintenance in postwar Korea, and Engineer Project Officer for installation of the Nike Hercules weapons system in Europe. The last military assignments in the Unites States were as Aviation Engineer Advisor to the Continental Air Command Headquarters at Mitchell Air Force Base, NY and Commanding Officer, 92nd Engineer Bn., 18th Airborne Camp, Ft. Bragg, NC.

Retired in Heidelberg, Germany, and worked as a civilian representative for the United States on the NATO Nike Missile Construction Inspection team, and as a technical advisor to NATO on the Nike Missile System.

Has lived in Santa Barbara since 1962.

REGINALD M. BALLANTYNE, born Flag Day, June 14, 1923 in Manlius, NY. Commissioned from ROTC in October 1942 and posted to Camp Croft, SC for training of draftees in the Infantry. Sent to 273rd Inf. Reg., 69th Div. at Camp Shelby, MS for Regimental Combat Training in April 1943. Shipped to Italy in March 1944 as replacement officer and reported to Co. C, 133rd Inf., 34th Div. May 1944, returned home with the 34th in November 1945. Returned to inactive duty June 1946.

Reginald M. Ballantyne

Decorations include Bronze Star with cluster, Purple Heart with cluster, three campaign battle stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Unit Citation Badge plus service ribbons. He considered himself blessed as infantry officers were not known for their longevity.

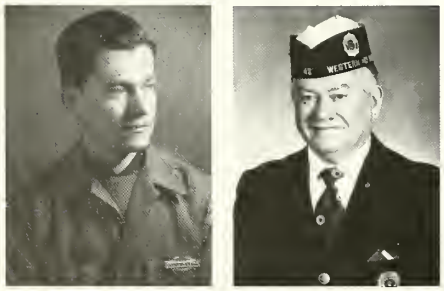
Reginald married Constance A. Martin on Dec. 23, 1942. They have three sons, three daughters and six grandchildren. After 40 years in steamship business in New York City, now retired and residing at their home of 40 years at 124 Earl Street, Westbury, NY.

HOWARD R. BARNETT, born Glimer Co., WV, May 17, 1919. Enter service May 19, 1942. Trained with heavy weapons at Camp Wolters, TX. Shipped overseas in September of 1942. In Ireland joined 34th Div., K Co., 3rd Bn., 133rd Reg. Sent to England then to Africa. Was K Co. scout and runner. Wounded May 5, 1943. Spent three months in hospital. Sent back to K Co. Went in at Salerno, Italy. Wounded Oct. 3, 1943.

Howard R. Barnett

Has two Purple Hearts/Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, and Combat Infantry Badge. Discharged from 2nd IND HQ Hospital Center, Camp Pickett, VA, Oct. 10, 1945. Married Elma Davis Mar. 14, 1944, two sons, two daughters, 11 grandchildren, two great grandchildren. Retired from Bureau of Public Dept. in Parkersburg, WV after 26 years of service.

BERNARD C. BARNHART, born Warfordsburg, PA on Nov. 1, 1919. Was working in shipyard at Sparrows Point, MD on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 1941. Went in Army June 7, 1944. Basic training at I.R.T.C. Camp Blanding, FL. On ten days delayed enroute for overseas duty, my brother's body was shipped home for burial, Navy, South Pacific.



Bernard C. Barnhart

Went to Italy on transport, Monticello, landed Naples, sent to Leghorn on LST's the next day. Joined K Co. 168th Inf. as a rifleman November 1944. Served in North Appenines Mountains that winter and was in the Po Valley Campaign.

Received the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, two major battle stars, and etc. Was discharged Feb. 2, 1946 at Ft. Meade, MD.

Went back to shipyard and joined Railway Mail Service in July 1948. Retired from Postal Service Aug. 31, 1977. Now living in Hagerstown, MD. Wife Virginia; three children and four grandchildren. I am a life member of the American Legion and the V.F.W.

JOSEPH BARTHOLOMAI, born July 9, 1925 at Connellsville, PA. Drafted in the U.S. Army on Nov. 18, 1943 and departed Connellsville, PA on Dec. 9, 1943 by train and arrived in Ft. Meade, MD for assignment and was sent to Camp Blanding, FL Infantry Replacement Center for basic training on Dec. 17, 1943.

Completed basic training 13 weeks later and was shipped to Ft. Jackson, SC on Apr. 5, 1944. Spent several months at Ft. Jackson with 87th Inf. Div. Was dispatched from 87th on Aug. 6, 1944 and shipped overseas and arrived in Liverpool, England and spent some time before sailing the English Channel for France.

Joseph Bartholomai

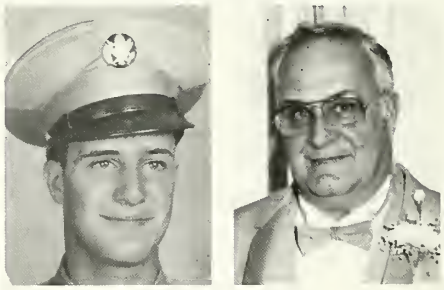
Arrived at CherBourg and then loaded in C47 Transport planes and arrived in Pisa, Italy several hours later. Was assigned to Co. E, 135th Inf. at Monticatina on Nov. 5, 1944 and joined 1st Platoon, Co. E in combat.

Received two Battle Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Unit Badge, Purple Heart Medal and Bronze Star. Was discharged at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation on Jan. 30, 1946.

Was employed in the Railroad Industry for over 40 years but now retired.

Married in 1949, one son, one daughter, and three grandchildren. Was proud to be a member of the 34th Div.

ROBERT SCOTT BAUER, born July 3, 1924 in Chicago, IL. Inducted into Army at Ft. Sheridan, IL on Apr. 22, 1943, sent to Ft. McClellan, AL, and infantry replacement training center. On September 1943 to Ft. Meade, MD and then to Camp Patrick Henry, VA.



Robert Scott Bauer

On Oct. 4, 1943 embarked on Liberty Ship "George B. McClellan" and arrived at Oran Morroco on Oct. 23, 1943. On to Algeria - Tunisia. Shipped out of Bizerte Tunisia on British Ship "Cuba" for Naples, Italy. Landed at Naples, Italy on November 1943. Arrived at 7th Replacement Depot. Assigned to 34th Div at S. Angelo d' Alife as a message center code clerk for Hq. Co. 1 Bn. - 135th Inf. Moved up to front line at San Pietro area - two days before New Year 1944. Then followed Cassino-Anzio-Rome-Florence-Pisa-Bologna-Brescia-Biella-Iwrea - where the Germans surrendered. From Iwrea to the Italian Riviera, San Remo, the French border area. Moved to Adina Trieste area on Yugoslavia border. Left Naples on Oct. 22, 1945 on S.S. Monticello. Landed at Camp Patrick Henry, VA, Nov. 3, 1945. Discharged Nov. 9, 1945 at Camp Grant, IL.

Decorations received were: European, African, Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with four Bronze Battle Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, four Overseas Service Bars.

Married 1948, has two sons, one daughter, three grandchildren and one expected October 1988. Lives in Chicago. Was a carpet installer for 27 years. Presently employed by the city of Chicago Water Dept.

ROY ORSON BEAM, born Mar. 29, 1924. Entered service (Army) Feb. 23, 1943 at Dallas, TX. Took basic training at Camp Wolters, Mineral Wells, TX. Shipped out to Camp Shenango, Sharon, PA. From there to Camp Patrick Henry, VA.

Embarked at Newport News, VA on the Maraposa. Landed at Casablanca, North Africa in June 1943. Joined 168th Inf., 34th Div. in July 1943. Took additional training (mountain fighting) around city Bel-a-Bez and Oran. Landed in Italy D-Day plus nine at Salerno.

Roy Orson Beam

First combat action at Volturno River Crossing Oct. 13, 1943. Crossed Volturno three times, then wounded while on Von Ripper combat patrol. Platoon strength, 32 men; 3rd Platoon, Co. "E", went out, only 11 came back. Sent back to Naples, then to a hospital in N. Africa.

Rejoined Co. "E" in February 1944. Wounded again at Anzio Apr. 29, 1944. Rejoined outfit May 25, 1944. Fought on up through Rome and N. Italy until Nov. 23, 1944, at which time captured with entire platoon and machine gun attachments from Co. "H" while on out post location called "The Hot House," Mt. Belmonte.

Interned at Stalag VII-A, Moosburg, Germany. Liberated Apr. 29, 1945 by the 14th Armd. Div. Sent back to Camp Lucky Strike. From there to Ft. Sam Houston. Discharged October 1945 as a Master Sergeant.

Awards and Medals: Bronze Star, Purple Heart w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Emblem, ETO Campaign w/four Battle Stars; WW-II Victory Medal, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Now lives at 2929 Lawson Rd., Mesquite, TX 75181, with dear wife of 44 years. One daughter happily married to Richard Wingo.

HENRY G. BEDINGER JR., was born Apr. 6, 1921 at Florence, SC. Graduated from Red Springs, NC high school and Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC. On Aug. 18, 1942 enlisted in the "Enlisted Reserve Corps."

Called to duty April 1943 and received basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. Then shipped, via North Africa, to Italy and assigned to the Headquarters Co., 3rd Bn., 135th Inf. in December 1943. Served in S/2 section and as mail clerk.

Henry G. Bedinger, Jr.

Battles and Campaigns: Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; North Appenines; Po Valley. Occupation duty on the Italian-French border and the Italian-Yugoslav border. Returned to the United States for honorable discharge Dec. 13, 1945.

Decorations and Citations: EAMET Campaign Ribbon with four Bronze Service Stars; Good Conduct Medal; Purple Heart; Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge; Victory Medal.

Professional career in various sales positions, retiring in 1986 from U.S. Plywood-Champion International after 32 years' service.

Father of one son and one daughter; four grandchildren. At home in Columbia, SC.

COVEL B. BELLIS, joined the military Feb. 17, 1943 at Camp ___ at the time of induction I lived in Chicago. I went to Camp Wolters for training. On May 16, 1943 I was married at Camp Wolters to Laurena Yoesel of Falls City, NE.

From Camp Wolters I went to Camp Shenango, PA as infantry repalcement D Co. I sailed from Hampton ___from Camp Patrick Henry, VA.

I arrived at Casablanca, Morrocco in July 21, 1943 and took a train to Oran, Algeria and went into the 133rd Inf. 34th Div. in August of 1943 at Anzio near Oran.

Covel B. Bellis

On September 19 we landed to Salerno, Italy. I went to a hospital in North Africa with Malaria. I returned to my outfit in November of 1943 and was with them until the Division was sent home in Octoher of 1945.

I was discharged on Nov. 9, 1945 at Camp __. I returned home to my wife in Chicago and my job at Ball metal and Service Division. We moved to Brookfield in 1950 and still live here but in a different house. We have two daughters ___ of La Grange IL and Marilyn ___ of Colorado.

I retired at the end of 1978. During my career with the 34th Div. I received five Battle Stars, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal.

GERALD J. BETRO, born Walpole, MA. July 5, 1923. Joined 133rd Inf. Reg. in Africa in July, 1943 as Infantry Rifleman (745). Transferred to heavy weapons and anti-tank. Later assigned to headquarters. Italian Invasion - Salerno Landing, Voltorno River Crossings, Casino, Anzio, Appinine Mountains, Po Valley, French Border Containment and Yugoslavia Border Containment.

Gerald J. Betro

Received Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, European, Africa and Middle East Campaign Ribbon, Four Major Bronze Battle Stars, Presidential Citation, Meritorious Award, five Overseas Bars, Regimental Awards of French Croix de Guerre with Palm, Medaille de La France Liberre.

Participated in deactivation 133rd Inf. Reg., October, 1945, Norfolk, VA.

Discharged November 1945.

Recalled to active duty in 1950 during Korean War from Inactive Officer's Reserve Corp. Served 21 months.

Three sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Holds MBA, BS in BA and CPA.

Managing partner of Certified Public Accounting firm.

WOODROW W. BEVERAGE, born at Bartow, WV Sept. 11, 1916. Drafted in the Army at Beckley, WV in Octoher 1941. Received basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. Was on the rifle range when Japan homhed Pearl Harbor. Assigned to Co. F, 168th Inf. at Ft. Dix, NJ in February 1942. Trained in North Ireland and Scotland for the invasion of North Africa. Will always have vivid memories of Algiers, Sened Station, Kasserine Pass, Fondouk Pass, Hill 609, Tunis, Volturno River crossings, Cerreto, Anzio and the march to Rome.

Woodrow W. Beverage

Rotated home August 1944. Have battle stars for Italian, Algerian-Moroccan and Tunisian campaigns and Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster. Discharged September 1945. Doris, my loving wife of 43 years and I have three children and two grandchildren. Retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1975. Reside at Valley Bend, WV.

CHESTER ALVIN BILLS, horn Octoher 1916 at Unionville, MO. Entered the service Apr. 4, 1941 at Ft. Des Moines, IA. Sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO, from there to Camp Claihorne, LA, and assigned to Co. G 168th Inf. Participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers. Sent to Ft. Dix, NJ January 1942. Shipped to Ireland and trained from May 12 - August 22, and trained in Scotland, August 23 - Oct. 15, 1942. Served in Algeria, North Africa Nov. 8, 1942 - Sept. 15, 1943. Become

Chester Alvin Bills

Sergeant Nov. 21, 1942. Served in Italy from Sept. 21, 1943 - Mar. 14, 1944. Discharged Aug. 17, 1944 at Camp Gruber, Ok.

Following discharge, worked 14 years for C&NW Railroad, and 20 years for Story County Road Department, presently retired. Married Sept. 30, 1944, he and his wife Gloria, live in Nevada, IA. Have three children Judith Blair, Sharon Sears, and Craig Bills, and one grandson Andrew Sears.

WILLIAM W. BIRKETT, 957 N. Park Street, Richland Center, WI 53581. Born in town of Rochester, Racine Co., WI Aug. 3, 1921. Volunteered for Air Force Pilot program in early 1942, returned to college and was called in February 1943, discovered I was color blind, went from Ft. Sheridan, IL to Ft. McClellan, AL for 13 weeks of basic training in the Infantry, then overseas to Casablanca via Camp Shenango, PA and Newport News, VA.

William W. Birkett

At Casablanca took the Famous French Box Car (held 40 men or 8 horses) to Oran, North Africa and was assigned to Anti-Tank Co. 168th Inf. 34th Div. Trained about 80 miles south of Oran hriefly before emharking for Alerno. Remember vividly Salerno, Mount Pantano, Monti Casino, Anzio and the winter line. Was hospitalized three times with yellow jaundice, pneumonia and finally hit with a mortar shell on the winter line north of Florence. Still in the hospital when war ended. After the war finished college and taught high school history for two years, then was in agri-business sales until retirement. Now live at 957 North Part Street, Richland Center, WI 53581.

GRANT BISHOP, born Feb. 13, 1918 in Waterloo, IA. Joined Co. "H" 136th Medical Reg., part of the 34th Inf. Div., in January 1941. We were activated into federal service on Feb. 10, 1941 and shipped to Camp Claibourne, LA for one year of training.

When the Division was reorganized from a square to a triangle I was transferred to Co. "D" of the 109th Medical Bn., still part of the 34th.

On Dec. 7, 1941 WWII was declared. We were moved to Ft. Dix, NJ for deharkation, debarking on Feb. 19, 1942 for Belfast, North Ireland.

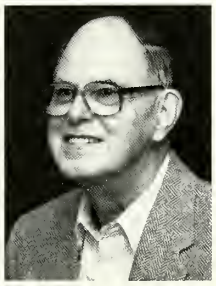
We participated in the following campaigns: Tunisian, Naples, Foggia, Rome Arno, North Appenninea, Po Valley.

Left Naples by boat on July 8, 1945 and arrived at Ft. Dix on July 25. Transferred to Ft. Sheridan, IL on July 29, and discharged.

Grant Bishop

Following discharge, married in September. I have two sons, four grandchildren and one great grandson. I am now retired from the furniture business and have lived in the same house in Des Moines, IA for more than 40 years.

ROBERT D. BOLLINGER, born July 7, 1918 at Newton Hamilton, PA. Joined service troop, 104th Cavalry in September 1940. Entered Federal Service Feb. 17, 1941. Transferred into 34th Cavalry Recon. troop in January 1942 at Indiantown Gap, PA. Moved to Ft. Dix, NJ, then to Ireland. Trained with 1st Armd. Recon., also attended chemical warfare school at Omagh, while stationed at Gorton. Shipped to Africa in December 1943. Fought African campaign. Sent to Salerno. Fought in Italian campaign. Wounded in action July 1944 while attacking Livorno (Leghorn) Italy.



Robert D. Bollinger

Returned to unit after three months in 33rd General Hospital in Rome. Sent home on rehabilitation leave from near Livergnano in March 1945. Discharged on June 17, 1945 at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. Went to Radio Engineering School and worked in electronics industry until 1950. Accepted position as Equipment Specialist at Navy Ship's Parts Control Center in Mechanicsburg, PA. Retired in 1977. Married 42 years with two sons and five grandchildren.

MAJ. EDWARD L. BOPP, born May 26, 1920 in Atlantic, IA. Joined Co. K, 34th Div. in 1937. Was mobilized and was stationed at Camp Claiborne, then to Ireland and Scotland. In Scotland he was assigned to Number 6 British Commando for the North African Invasion. He received a Field Commission in January 1943 in North Africa. After invading Italy at Naples he was hospitalized and came home on a hospital ship in 1944.

Edward L. Bopp

While a patient at Schick General Hospital he met his wife "Evelyn". They were married at Ft. Benning, GA and now have three children; Dr. Harry E. Bopp; Mr. Tom Bopp, Attorney and Suzanne Bopp, teacher. They have two granddaughters.

Ed suffered a severe stoke in December 1974 and now is paralyzed on left side. He and his wife own a Real Estate Company in Tampa, FL, where Ed can still answer the telephone and mind the office.

HERMAN O. BOUCHER, born at Thorne, ND on Mar. 28, 1914. Selected for the 34th Inf. Div. of the 3rd Bn., 135th Inf. Reg. on May 8, 1941 at Ft. Snelling, MN. He was squad leader 610 Combat Infantryman.

He served in active duty in Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Appennines and Po Valley Campaigns.

Herman O. Boucher

Herman received the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action on June 2, 1944 in Italy. When the driver of an evacuation vehicle was wounded, he voluntarily assumed his hazardous duties. For more than 12 hours he drove his vehicle back and forth over a route under direct enemy observation and mortars, artillery and machine gun fire. He succeeded in evacuating over 50 wounded soldiers from the front lines to the Battalion Aid Station, thereby enabling them to receive prompt medical attention. He also received the Purple Heart.

He was Honorable Discharged on June 12, 1945. Following discharge he worked as a farmhand. Married in 1947, they had one daughter and three sons, and nine grandchildren. Herman farmed for 19 years and then moved to Oregon, working at a plywood plant for 11 years and then retired. He died of heart failure Oct. 1, 1987. HE WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED.

CYRIL A. BOUSKA, born Feb. 6, 1917 in Schley, IA. Volunteered for the draft Apr. 3, 1941 at Decorah, IA; Accepted for service at Ft. Des Moines, IA. Sent to Reception Center, Jefferson Barracks, MO where he remained from April 4 to April 15. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA; assigned to Co. G, 168th Inf., 34th Div. Reassigned to Hq. Det. 2nd Bn. Aug. 30, 1941. From Camp Claiborne to Ft. Dix, NJ. Left Ft. Dix for northern Ireland Apr. 30, 1942 for amphibious training to take part in the invasion of Algeria in North Africa. Engaged in battle with Rommel's troops throughout African campaign. Shipped to Salerno, Italy; fought all the way through Italy until the war ended in ETO.

Cyril A. Bouska

Decorations he has received: EAME Theater Ribbon with one Arrowhead, one Silver and one Bronze Battle Stars, Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Croix de Guerre Medal and six Overseas Bars. Has a record of over 500 days of actual combat with the Red Bull. Was discharged Technician 4th Grade from Ft. Sheridan, IL, July 18, 1945.

Following discharge he started farming at Protivin, IA where he continues to live in semi-retirement. Was married in 1946; has one son and one daughter and three grandchildren.

Cy was proud to serve his country with the famous Red Bull Div.

PETER BOYLE, born Apr. 1, 1921, in Brooklyn, NY. Called to active duty with the New York 27th National Guard on Oct. 15, 1940. Sent to Ft. McClellan, AL and in March 1942, shipped overseas to the Island of Maui. Shipped back to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill, OK and commissioned 2nd Lt. Field Art. in January 1943. Joined the 125th F.A. Bn. at Mateur, Africa in May 1943. Remained with the 125th throughout the Italian Campaign from Salerno, to San Remo. Discharged a Captain in the Reserves in 1945 only to return in 1946 to serve as a Regular Army Officer from 2nd Lieutenant thru the rank of Colonel as an Artillery Line Officer and later General Staff Officer retiring at the age of 49 with over 30 years service. Inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame at Ft. Sill 1970.

Peter Boyle

Following military retirement; worked 13 years with Sears Roebuck and Co. and retired a second time. Presently retired. Married in 1943, two sons, a daughter and three grandsons.

CLARENCE L. BRADLEY (Buzz), Sgt., #36079165, November 1941 to May 6, 1945 (33 months overseas). Wounded in action June 29, 1944, Siena, Italy. Awarded the Purple Heart, 151st F-A Bn. Combat Team 133rd Inf. Reg. - Foward Observer, Ireland, England, Africa and Italy. Won 5th Army 127 lbs. Champ, Runner-Up Allied Championship, Algiers Africa.

Born Oct. 27, 1919, Murphysboro, IL; graduated from high school 1940; entered Army in November 1941; Basic Training at Ft. Bragg, NC. Joined 34th Inv. Div. - 151st F.A. Bn. January 1942 at Ft. Dix, NJ. Went to North Ireland February 1942. Boxed professional 127 lbs. in Belfast on weekends.

Clarence L. Bradley

November out outfit transferred to England; then to North Africa. Into action in February at Kass Faid Pass. Remained in combat until Hill 909 (last big battle) end of campaign. Our outfit 151st F.A. Bn. went by convoy from Tunisia to Oran for invasion training. Returned to Tunisia on September 7; we boarded LST for Italy on Sept. 8, 1943. On September 9, 12:30 A.M. in Salerno Bay we left our LST in Ducks and headed toward the beach. We hit the beach about 5-6:00 a.m. (daybreak). You know the story of Salerno and our breakout September 14 on land toward Cassino in December/January 1944; part of February I was off the front lines - boxing.

I went pro 127 lbs., 5th Army Championship, represented the 5th Army in Allied tournament in Algiers, Africa in February 1943. I was Runner-up to Rene Pons, French Navy Champ in Allied Boxing Tournament. I returned to Italy and my outfit going to Anzio beachhead. We were on Anzio March/April/May and in on the breakout to Rome June 5-6. We went through Rome and on to Siena, Northern Italy where I was wounded. Seven days in Field Hospital, 17th General Hospital in Rome for three and one-half months, two weeks in Naples and shipped to U.S.A. Oct. 22, 1943.

I was discharged from Percy Jones Hospital Battle Creek, MI, May 6, 1945. I entered Carthage College September 1945. Graduated in 1948, B.S. Degree. Married Rosalie J. Davis on June 7, 1947. I finished coaching and teaching here in Sparta, IL, after 38 years. My wife Rosalie retired with me after teaching 25 years.

We have one daughter, Carol Sue, who teaches in Freeburg, IL. She has three children: Brad (15), Emily (9), Katie (5). My son, Scott, married and has three boys: Josh (9), Nate (8) and Tyson (3). He works for State Agriculture Dept. of Illinois.

In addition to the Purple Heart, I also received the Good Conduct Medal, WWII Medal, five Battle Stars and one Oakleaf Cluster.

KENNETH W. BRANDON, born July 19, 1922, Nisland, SD. Joined National Guard at Sturgis, SD. Mobilized into Army in February 1941. Trained at Camp Claiborne, LA. First duty to guard oil supply tanks in Texas City. Went to Ft. Dix, NJ to board the Normandy, ship capsized, and we boarded five replacements. Our ship broke down twice on way to Novia Scotia. Became a casualty group on Cape Cod until another ship was boarded. Went to North Ireland, trained in Scotland and invaded North Africa in December 1942. Next stop Tunis where I was captured.

Kenneth W. Brandon

Evacuated to Sicily by three motor planes and rode in a box car to Munich. Next camp was 3b on Oder River where we had to work on the railroad. Continued bombing by U.S. forced me to escape the work camp and was sent back to 3b to be in solitary confinement. Had to go back to work on the railroad and was later evacuated to a camp near the Elbe River where the Russians overran the camp and liberated all. Escaped from the Russians and walked 85 kilos to American lines and trucks waiting to carry us to airport where we got a plane to France. Next we boarded a ship and arrived in Norfolk, VA. Went to Ft. Lewis, WA by train and discharged on Sept. 30, 1945.

Enrolled in college at WSC in October 1945. Lasted one semester before I got 100% disabled from malnutrition and arthritis. After ten months in hospital and resting and Moses Lake, VA I returned to WSC in 1947. Transferred to University of Arizona in 1948 and finished there in 1950. Got my first job in 1951 in Pascoe, WA, then worked at Richland, WA for six years. Worked for Boeing in Seattle for 12 years, then spent 18 years auditing for the State. Retired in 1987 at 65 years of age. Have three children, five grandchildren and we all live in the Seattle area.

CHARLES BREES, Knoxville, IA. An Iowa farm boy and breeder of Shorthorn cattle. Inducted into the service Good Friday, Apr. 11, 1941 at Des Moines. Returned through my home town that night enroute to camp. Was attached to Co. G 168th Inf. 34th Div. Camp Claiborne, LA. Co. G participated in largest maneuvers up to that time.

34th Div. was put on alert New Year's Day and sent thru Ft. Dix, NJ to points in Northern Ireland and Scotland for six months before arriving in Northern Africa to fight and win at Hill 609, Bizerta, Tunis, etc. I was surrounded at Faid Pass by the enemy for three days and nights but I managed to escape thru eight miles of enemy territory. Spent six weeks on front line without relief.

Charles Brees

Landed Salerno, Italy. Crossed the Volturno River three times thru mine fields and booby-traps.

Early morning Dec. 4, 1943 I was wounded by mortar fire. While being evacuated late that night, artillery fire killed two litter bearers and wounded another.

Was discharged Sept. 29, 1944. I returned to farming for 32 years. We have one son and four grandchildren.

SHERMAN G. BRETT, born Mar. 24, 1921 at Robinson, PA. Entered active service June 21, 1939 at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Transferred to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO as training cadre. Transferred to Co. F 168th Inf. at Ft. Dix, NJ. Was in Invasion of North Africa and Italy.

Sherman G. Brett

Decorations and Citations: American Defense Service Medal, Purple Heart, American Theater Campaign Medal, European African Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver and two Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, received souvenir of final victory (enclosed). 655 days on front lines, 37 months overseas.

Left 34th Div. Nov. 21, 1945, separated at Indiantown Gap military reservation, Pennsylvania.

Have earned B.A. and M.A. and have coached and taught school until retirement in 1981.

MARTIN J. BRIHEL, born Bellevue, OH, Oct. 6, 1925. Inducted in fall of 1943; trained at Camp Blanding, FL as infantry replacement. Joined 168th Inf. Reg. Anti-Tank Co., in July of 1944, below Florence, no prior anti-tank training. Manned a 50 cal machine gun during final offensive that ended war in Italy. Trained as motor mechanic for six weeks immediately after war ended. Worked in motor pool until Division went home. Transferred to 88th Div. and assigned to motor pool. The division was stationed on Italian Yogoslav border. After 18 months overseas went home in February of 1946. Graduated from University of Dayton in 1952.

Martin J. Brihel

Married, 11 children, 3 grandchildren; wife's name is Margaret. Employed by Motorola in Phoenix, AZ as engineering supervisor.

RUBERT EARL BURTON, born Aug. 9, 1916, son of Earl and Emma Klinger Burton, south-east of Corydon, IA in Jackson Twp., Wayne Co., IA. Attended Pleasant Valley Rural School and graduated from Corydon High School.

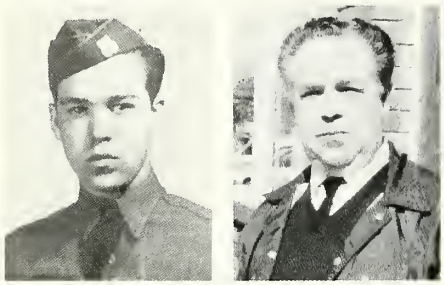
April 4, 1941, drafted into Army for one year, going to Co. E 168th Inf. 34th Div. at Camp Claiborne, LA. Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 extended our time. Left Claiborne Jan. 1, 1942 for Ft. Dix, NJ, then to Ireland and on to Scotland for amphibious training for invasion, some training with Rangers. I took part in African Invasion Nov. 8, 1942, among first to reach city of Algiers, also Algiers and Tunisian Campaigns. Taken Prisoner of War by Germans, Feb. 17, 1943 at Faid Pass. March 1 was flown from Tunis to Naples, Italy, then by train, in box-cars, to Stalag 111 B in Germany, then to work camp at Speirmberg. Received some Red Cross parcels there. Germans turned us over to Americans on Apr. 25, 1945. Received honorable discharge Sept. 17, 1945.

Rubert Earl Burton

November 27, 1946. I married Lucille Couchman. She was a rural carrier at Sewal, later at Corydon, IA and retired after 35 years and seven months service. I served as her Substitute 32 years. I farmed in partnership with my father-in-law. General farming and raised and sold Registered Angus cattle for breeding stock and club calves. Over the years, we bought more land and had a total of 520 acres and the cattle herd increased to 240 head of Registered Angus.

January 6, 1982, I slipped on ice and injured a knee. I was forced to retire and sold the cattle and rented the farm. Since that time, I've kept busy doing odd jobs around the home and at the farm, and just enjoying life.

JAMES J. CAIRNS, born Mar. 17, 1921 in Centerville, IA. Joined the Iowa National Guard in 1939, 34th Div. Co. G 168th Inf., 2nd Bn. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA February 1940, shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ then to Ireland then to Scotland for training of the British Army. Took part in the African invasion, the Italian Invasion, and went all the way to the Alps. Was discharged Sept. 25, 1945 at Ft. Sheridan, IL; 41months overseas credit.



James J. Cairns

Following discharge worked in the automotive and body fender work for the 25 years, 15 years in the grocery business. Now semi-retired living in Centerville, IA. Married November 1947 has two sons and three grandchildren.

ALEXANDER N. CANGRO, born July 14, 1921 in Staten Island, NY. Enlisted in the Army in 1942 assigned to 34th Inf. Div. and sent overseas Mar. 20, 1943. Served in Africa and Italy as a rifleman with C Co. 168th Inf. Reg. Served a total of 32 months overseas.

Alexander N. Cangro

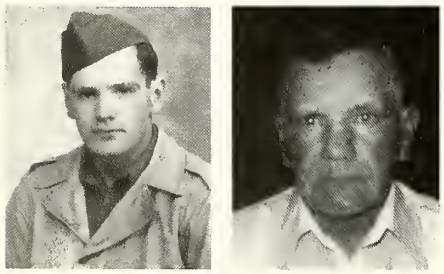
Awarded a Sliver Star, Purple Heart, and CIB, three Battle Stars. Discharged November 1945.

Wife name Antoinette. Two sons, one daughter, six grandchildren. Retired.

HUBERT E. CARLEN, born Dec. 18, 1919 at Greenup, IL. Drafted into the Army in November 1941. Joined the 175th Field Art. B Btry. in January of 1942 in Ft. Dix. From there to North Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Invaded Africa at Algiers. At the front in Africa from beginning to end. From Africa to Salerno, Italy. From Cassino to Afjio then to Rome, then all the way up through Italy till war ended.

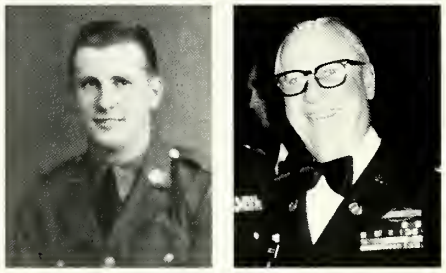
Six major Battle Stars, 39 months overseas. Discharged in August 1945.

Living on a farm, married with one son, one daughter, and four grandsons.



Hubert E. Carlen

GLENN A. CARLSON, 2211 Ave. "I", Council Bluffs, IA, born Mar. 19, 1920, Elk Horn, IA. Joined Iowa National Guard Dec. 3, 1940. Inducted into active military service, Service Company, 168th Inf., 34th Inf. Div. on Feb 10, 1941, assigned for training at Camp Claiborne, LA, to Ft. Dix, NJ on January 1942, North Ireland, March 1942, Scotland, August 1942, Operation Torch, Algiers, North Africa, November 1942, Tunisian Campaign, Invasion of Italy at Salerno, October 1943, Italian Campaign thru December, 1944. To United States on rotation January 1945. Ft. Sam Houston, TX, February 1945, Camp Blanding, FL, March 1945. Discharged from active duty on June 6, 1945. Reenlisted Iowa National Guard, 34th Inf. Div., retired March 1980 after 37 years, 2 months and 27 days military service at rank of CW4.

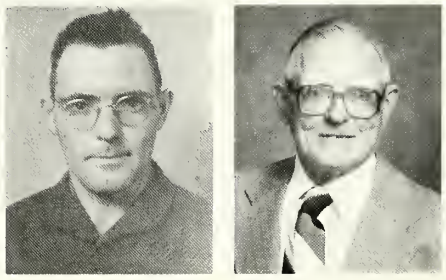


Glenn A. Carlson

Awarded American Defense Service Medal, EAME Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Battle Stars for Algerian Operation, Tunisian Campaign, Italian Campaign, and Overseas Bars for Feb. 19, 1942 to Dec. 22, 1944. Awarded Meritorious Service Medal on Mar. 10, 1980. Wife, Eileen, daughter, Susan, married, granddaughter Brianne, son, Larry, Junior, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS. Presently retired, working part-time for insurance company in Omaha, NE.

JAMES ELMER CHAPIN, born July 25, 1918, early years spent on the farm. Joined the Regimental Headquarters Co. 133rd Inf., 34th Div. of the Iowa National Guards in 1939. Went into Federal Service in February 1941 and trained at Camp Claiborne, LA.

Married Florence C. Matthias Oct. 17, 1941 in New Orleans, LA. Went overseas in January 1942 landing in Ireland. After almost a year was moved to England and later while enroute to Africa our ship was rammed by another ship and disabled. After the campaign in Africa shipped out to Italy landing at Salerno. Went all the way through Italy with the Division. After the European battles were over, came home and was discharged July 18, 1945 at Ft. Sheridan, IL, 20701118 Tec. 5th Hq. Co. 133rd Inf.



James Elmer Chapin

Returned to Cedar Falls, IA and was employed at Rines Lumber 16-1/2 years.

Children: a daughter Kathryn Kay born Nov. 19, 1946 and a son Daryl Dean born May 9, 1948.

Later employed by Cedar Falls Utilities 20 years and four months retiring in July 1982.

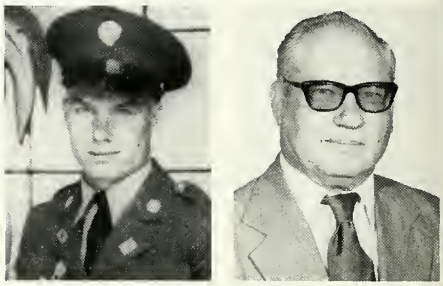
Wife Florence deceased on May 19, 1972. Married Lucille L. Dennis Apr. 26, 1973. Member of St. Johns Lutheran Church and at present St. Patricks Catholic.

Memberships also in American Legion Post 237 for 41 years, National BoxCar Association, 40&8 Voiture 82, 34th Inf. Div. Assn.

Enjoys traveling, camping, fishing, gardening, and woodworking.

HAROLD L. CHAPMAN, born Jan. 14, 1922, Sioux City, IA. Age 17 joined Co. L 133rd Inf. 34th Div, Browning Automatic Rifleman mobilized 1941 to Camp Claiborne, LA. After Pearl Harbor was sent to Ft. Dix, NJ, was transferred to Co. B 135th Inf. 34th Div.

Went to Ireland for extensive training. Left Ireland landed Oran, North Africa. After African Campaign, a new unit was formed, the 135th Inf. Cannon Co. for Infantry support. I was 50 cal. Machinegunner and Gun crewman.

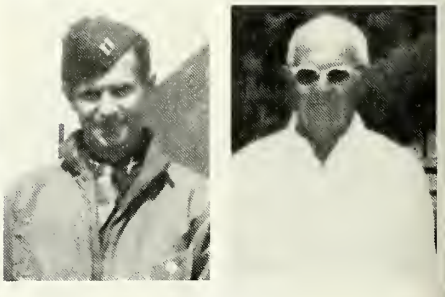


Harold L. Chapman

Left Africa, landed Salerno, Italy, to Naples and Cassino. Pulled back to Naples and left for Anzio. Broke out of Anzio to Rome, Pisa, Florence and Po Valley. With 110 points and 35 months overseas, rotated to U.S. and home.

Discharged June 1945, studied and became Radio and Television Technician. Wife Dezie, 6 children, 11 grandchildren, four great grandchildren. Home, Pitkin, LA 70656.

DEAN E. CHAPPELL, born Jackson, MI, July 22, 1917. Joined Btry. C, 119th F.A. Jan. 20, 1941 as Battery Clerk. Inducted into Fed. Serv. Apr. 7, 1941. Made Corporal Apr. 9, 1941 and Sergeant Aug. 1, 1941 at Ft. Leonard Wood. Went to O.C.S. Ft. Sill June of 1942. Comm. 2nd Lieutenant Sept. 24, 1942. Left for overseas Oct. 4, 1942 on Queen Eliz arriving in Scotland Oct. 12, 1942. Assigned to the 125th F.A. Bn. in Ireland. Left for England and shipped for N.A. Dec. 23, 1942. Was Forward Observer with 2nd Bn. 135th Inf. at Pichon, Fondouk, Kasserine Pass and Hill 609.



Dean Chappell

Promoted to 1st Lieutenant June 4, 1943. Invaded Salerno as F.O. Southern Italy, Volturno River, Mt. Pantano (promoted to Captain). Casino, Anzio, Rome,

Pisa, Hwy. to Bolonga and the Po Valley. Returned to the States June of 1945. Discharged September 1945. Bronze Star and five major Battle Stars. 33 months overseas.

Married wife Mary Jane Aug. 14, 1945. One son Bruce born Nov. 9, 1946. Was Culligan Man for 35 years. Retired Dec. 31, 1980.

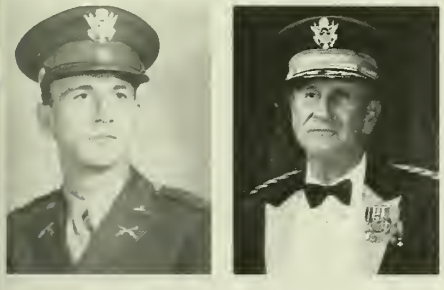
JOSEPH S. CHATELLE, born June 2, 1918 at Duluth, MN. Joined the National Guard Dec. 10, 1934 in Aitkin, MN as Co. B 135th Inf. Guard unit converted to 34th Military Police Co. in 1939. Unit left for Camp Claiborne, LA Feb. 10, 1941. Joined F. Co. 135th Inf. when shipped to North Ireland. Went from Ireland to England and on to North Africa and Italy.

Joseph S. Chatelle

Wounded three times in Italy, has the Purple Heart with two clusters. Was also awarded the Bronze Star on Dec. 15, 1944 for heroic achievement in action on Feb. 5, 1944 in Italy. Returned to the States May 28, 1945 after 39 months of overseas service. Re-enlisted in Army Ordnance Corp. in July 1947, serving in Hawaii, Korea, Japan and two tours of duty in Germany. Retired from the military in 1963 as Chief Warrant Officer with over 26 years of service. Settled in Minneapolis, MN, working in an electronics firm until second retirement in 1980.

Died in November 1984 leaving wife, three children and eight grandchildren.

TOM CHEGIN, born Jan. 6, 1920 at Homestead, PA. Entered the U.S. Army Reserve on June 11, 1941 and immediately called to active duty at Carlisle Barracks, PA. Shortly thereafter, transferred to 12th Inf. Reg. (The President's Own) at Arlington Cantonement, VA. In early 1942, ordered to Ft. Dix and assigned to Anti-Tank Co., 135th Inf. Reg. Participated in every campaign from Algiers onward as Platoon Leader.



Tom Chegin

Received subsequent assignment as S-1, 3rd Bn., and rotated to CONUS in mid-1944. Entered the Regular Army and assigned to G-2, Dept. of the Army, The Pentagon. During the course of his professional military service, he held key assignments as Asst. U.S. Military Attache, American Embassy, Rome, U.S. ARmy Attache, Asuncion, Paraguay, and later U.S. Army Attache, Rome. Also, Executive Assistant and Sr. Aide-de-Camp to Commander, U.S. MACV and U.S. MACTHAI, and upon return to the U.S., assigned as Post Commander, Ft. Meade, MD.

Retired in grade of Colonel after more than 30 years service. Holder of numerous U.S. and foreign awards and decorations. By special appointment, now serving as Consul General (AH) of Paraguay in Miami, FL.

JOHN CLARK, born in Howard, SD on Apr. 26, 1916. Private First Class, 321st Engineer Bn. John was inducted into the Army on Jan. 14, 1944 and entered into active duty on Feb. 4, 1944 at Ft. Snelling, MN.

He was a Water Supply Technician and a Rifle Sharpshooter. He was involved in GO 33 WD 45 Southern Philippines, Ryukus. He received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Arrowhead and a Meritorious Unit Award.

He was honorably discharged Dec. 15, 1945. Soon thereafter he married Shirley - they have three daughters and six grandchildren. John operated a hotel for many years and was a good sportsman, played a lot of baseball, and hunted pheasants and ducks. John died on May 30, 1975.

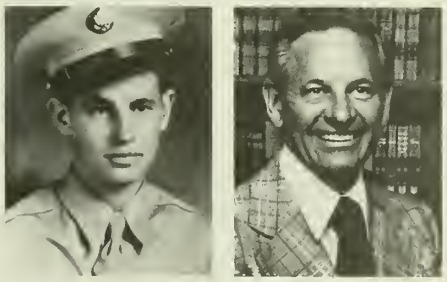
REGINALD R. CLARK, born Newark, NJ Oct. 19, 1916. Inducted Sept. 30, 1941 at Nutley, NJ. Basic training at Camp Croft, SC. Joined 34th Inf. at Ft. Dix, NJ in February 1942 to leave States to Northern Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Invaded North Africa at Oran. S-2 Forward Observer: Pichon, Fondouk Pass, Sbiba Pass, Kasserine Pass, Sbeitla, Hill 609, Bizerte, Tunis in Tunisia. Invaded Italy at Salerno, three Volturno Crossings, Caserta, San Vittore, Mt. Trocchio, Cassino, Anzio and Rome.

Reginald R. Clark

Has Bronze Star, Combat-Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal and four other ribbons, five major Battle Stars, 30 months overseas. Clark obtained the rank of Sergeant.

After the return to States, volunteered as first "Human Guinea Pig" for the Advancement of Research in Protection for our Armed Forces. Wife, Jane, one married daughter, Lydia Clark Case. Works as Real Estate Marketing Rep. for new homes in Sparta, NJ area.

THOMAS LYNDON CLAYTON, Staff Sergeant, Co. I, 133rd Inf. (Deceased Oct. 12, 1978). Born June 11, 1923 at Sylva, NC. Entered active service Mar. 10, 1943 Ft. Jackson, SC. Shipped to North Africa October 1943. Moved to Cassino, Italy, December 1943. After battle of Cassino, Company was pulled out to Invasion of Anzio. Moved up through Italy to Prato. Wounded in action May 29, 1944 Rome, Italy; July 11, 1944 Leghorn, Italy; Sept. 24, 1944 Prato, Italy. Returned to Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, GA.



Thomas Lyndon Clayton

Battles and Campaigns: Campaign of Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; North Appennines.

Decorations and citations: Purple Heart; two Oak Leaf Clusters to Purple Heart; three Bronze Service Stars; Bronze Arrowhead (Anzio); Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal; European African Middle Eastern Camp Medal; American Campaign Medal.

Discharged Nov. 4, 1945 Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, GA.

Following discharge: Returned to Sylva, NC and worked nine years as Jackson County Accountant and 23 years as Manager, Nantahala Power Company. Served one term as North Carolina State Senator.

Married in 1946, has one son and three grandchildren.

RAY THOMAS CLEMENS, born Feb. 8, 1915 at Goldonna, LA. Joined the Army in 1941. Basic Training at Ft. Ringgold, TX. Spent time training in England and was sent to North Africa. Joined the 34th Div. at Anzio. Was in 135th Inf. and traveled through Italy and remained with the 34th until the end of the War.

Was discharged in 1945. Joined the Air Force in 1946 and retired in 1961.

Married in 1947; has a son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

RODNEY L. CLEMENS, (T-5, Serial # 370-270-32) was born Mar. 16, 1919 in Minneapolis, MN. Drafted into 34th M.P. Co., Ft. Snelling, MN Apr. 21, 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Transferred to 34th Sig. Co., Special Troops.

Departed Feb. 19, 1942, arrived E.T.O. Mar. 2, 1942; departed Dec. 22, 1942, arrived N.A.T.O. Jan. 3, 1943; departed Sept. 22, 1943, arrived M.T.O Sept. 26, 1943; departed Mar. 22, 1945, arrived U.S. Mar. 21, 1945.

Rodney L. Clemens

Discharged Aug. 8, 1945, Camp McCoy, WI.

E.T.O. - British Isle, North Ireland; Scotland; England; North Africa; Italy - Paestrum, Salerno, Cassino, Anzio; Bologna; home.

Worked at Minneapolis Public Schools for 30 years. Retired. Married 41 years, no children, wife deceased.

WILLIAM COLE, born Postville, IA. Sept. 8, 1918. Inducted into service Apr. 3, 1941 at Ft. Des Moines, IA. Processed at Jefferson Barracks, MO and sent to Camp Claiborne, LA to train with E Co., 168th Inf. Transferred to Hq. Co. 168th Inf. to train as Radio

William Cole

Operator. Left from Ft. Dix, NJ to Northern Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Invaded North Africa at Algiers. Served as Regimental Radio Chief through Tunisian, Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, No Appennines and Po Valley Campaigns. Finishing with rank of Technical Sergeant. Earned Bronze Star, Good Conduct, American Defense, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one silver and one bronze Battle Star, six Overseas Ribbons, one Service Stripe. Discharged at Ft. Sheridan, IL Aug. 2, 1945.

Wife Kathryn, one daughter, one son and two grandchildren.

Retired as Railroad Agent and Operator May 1980 after 43 years with Milwaukee Railroad.

VINCE CONNERS (PETE), born in Imogene, IA in 1920. Joined Co. E, 168th Inf. in 1939, activated in to Federal Service Feb. 10, 1941. Served with 168th Inf. throughout WWII. Promoted to First Sergeant Co. E in December 1943. Received a Battlefield Commission in July 1944. Received Combat Promotion to First Lieutenant in October 1944. Served as Second and First Lieutenant with Co. A and Co. G 168th Inf. Received seven Battle Stars, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts in Africa and Italy.

Vince Conners

Served in Korean War in 1950-1951. Received a Battlefield promotion to Captain while serving as Rifle Company Commander, Co. C, 31st Inf., 7th Div. Received Bronze Star, Purple Heart, two Battle Stars, Star to Combat Infantry Badge during Korean War.

Retired from Army as Major in 1963, with 24 years of service. Now living in Sidney, IA with wife Jeanne. Have two sons, Jerry and Tom, and daughter, Marie.

PAUL S. CROUTHAMEL, born May 5, 1918 Fair Hill, PA. Inducted into the Army Camp Lee, VA Mar. 11, 1941, 16 weeks Basic Training Ft. Riley, KS. U.S. Cavalry. July 1941 104th Cavalry Indiantown Gap, PA. Joined 34th Div. Ft. Dix, NJ as part of the 34th Div. Recon. Troop. A contingent of troopers from the 104th Cavalry formed the troop, sailed for Ireland April 1942, Scotland, England, then landed at Algiers, moved to Telemcen for marracon border patrol.

Paul S. Crouthamel

Sabebia, Sabetla, Kasserine Pass, all the way to Bizerte, then on to Salerno, Cassino, Anzio, Po Valley and then home. Four Ribbons, five Battle Stars, 39 months overseas, out in July, 1945.

1948-1950 Pennsylvania National Guard, 721st Truck Co. Federalized in 1950 for the Korean Conflict, served in Trans. Corp. 1950-1952, 109th Eng. Germany 1952-1954, over ten years military service.

Five sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, retired 1980. Loves to fish, hunt, garden, travel, camp.

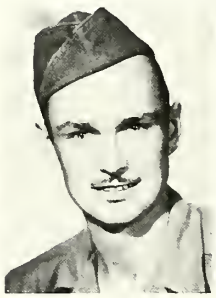
EARL CURTISS, born Apr. 6, 1918, Portal, ND. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Co. K, 135th Inf., 34th Div., when drafted. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ, after basic, then to North Ireland for six months training. Shipped to North Africa, landed in Algeria, Nov. 8, 1942. On Tunisian battle front, engaged in combat with Rommel, the Desert Fox. Landed 1943, Salerno, Italy. In combat through Italy to end of war. Served Apr. 24, 1941 to June 22, 1945. Given credit for 640 days and nights at front lines. In Army, 3 years 11 months, 28 days. Overseas 3 years, 1 month, 17 hours, 12 minutes, 33 seconds??

Earl Curtiss

After honorable discharge, worked on government dams three years, then 29 years in oil field, owning own pipe line construction company. Retired 1985. Married in 1957, has three children and one grandchild—so far! Has May 8, 1945, Victory Issue of the Stars and Stripes.

OSCAR A. DAHLBERG, born July 14, 1916 in Itasca Co., MN. Enlisted in Btry. F, 151st Field Arty. Reg., in Minneapolis on Mar. 7, 1932 at the age of 15. Served six years during the next eight years.

Reenlisted in Btry. D 151st F.A. Reg. (later Btry. A., 175th Field Arty. Bn.) on Sept. 20, 1940 and served until June 1945. Went to Camp Claiborne, LA. Northern Ireland and Scotland. Invaded North Africa at Algiers and ten days later found ourselves supporting the French at Medjes el Bab, Tunisia. Later invaded Italy at Salerno and Anzio. Served as Supply Sergeant until Tunisia when made Communication Sergeant. No major awards; five major Battle Stars. 36 months overseas; returning in 1945.



Oscar A. Dahlberg

Moved to Southern California in 1946 and retired as an Internal Auditor from the Southern California Gas Company in 1980.

Wife Virginia; two sons and six grandchildren. Home is in Fullerton, CA. Now playing golf and enjoying life.

JOSEPH DAVERIO, born Sharon, PA, June 27, 1924. Inducted into U.S. Army At Erie, PA, June 24, 1943. Processed at New Cumberland, PA, July 8, 1943. Transferred to Camp Croft, SC, for Basic Training. Transferred to Ft. Bennington, GA, Infantry School for Radio Communications. Transferred to Ft. Meade, MD to depart the States for Naples, Italy. Joined, April 1944, 34th Inf. Div. Hq. Co. 1st Bn., 133rd Inf. Reg. on Anzio Beachhead. Remained with 34th Inf. Div. for 20 months. Participated in the Rome-Arno, Northern Appennines and Po Valley Campaigns.

Joseph Daverio

Has Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Unit Badge, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, and WWII Victory Medal. Separated from Service Jan. 2, 1946.

Has wife Joanne, two sons, Joseph III and David. Presently self-employed in brickwork and masonry.

RAYMOND E. DAY, born in Liberty, MO on Jan. 20, 1916. Enlisted in the National Guard, Aug. 2, 1940. 133rd Inf. "C" Co., Cedar Rapids, IA.

Raymond E. Day

Mobilized to Camp Claiborne, LA. Entered active service, Feb. 10, 1941 for overseas. Went through European Campaign, Naples-Foggia, Algeria, French Morocco, Rome-Arno. Continental service 1 year, 4 months, 24 days and Foreign Service 3 years, 11 days. P.F.C. Military Policeman, P.F.C. anti-tank gun crewman. P.W. Guard. Separated July 14, 1945. Entitled to wear American Defense Service Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Ribbon, six Overseas Bars, three Bronze Stars. Per LTR Hqs. MTO USA 1944. Good Conduct Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

Married Mavis Klatt 1946; moved to Iowa Falls in 1948. Twenty-six years with City. Retired. Helps wife with janitor work, also plays Santa and Mrs. Claus.

ROGER A. DeBOER, born Nov. 2, 1916 in Austin, MN and received high school education. Joined the U.S. Army on Dec. 14, 1945.

Military locations and stations were: Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisian and Naples, Foggia Campaigns. After being seriously wounded in North Africa he was rescued by his buddies from behind the enemy lines. He had basic training at Camp Claiborne, LA and left with the first National Guard Unit. Sent overseas from South Dakota - was with the 109th Engineers.

He received the Purple Heart and achieved the rank of T-Sergeant. He was discharged on June 13, 1945.

He married Eva Jane Linneman on May 1, 1946. He has three children and three grandchildren. He was employed with Rural Letler Canrier before retiring in 1974 due to Parkinson's disease. After retiring DeBoer was ill for 15 years and died on June 23, 1987.

JAMES M. DICKEL, (MONROE), born Jan. 3, 1914, Wapello County in a town named after Monroe's Civil War hero of Sherman's march to the sea. He was a Cavalry Corporal of the Iowa Cavalry Unit.

In 1937 I joined Troop E 113th Cavalry Iowa National Guard. On Apr. 18, 1941 I answered the Selective Service call at Ft. Des Moines, IA. I was 70-1/2" tall and weighed 144 lbs.

I was assigned to Co. E 133rd Inf. 34th Inf. Div. Camp Claiborne, LA. I was soon to learn of Kenneth O. Nichols as friend and Captain. The event of Pearl Harbor; I knew I was going to be a machine gunner so I sent my typewriter home. Next I remember the rains of Shamrock Isles. TheMediterranean Cruise took us to Algiers, St. George Hotel. There I became known to Lt. Col. Marchi and Gen. Charles De Gaulle at Allied Forces Hqs. I am still proud of my patch and have several good __ of high level security. Gen. Charles De Gaulle's office gave high praise of the American Guards. My machine gunners became known at Anzio.

James M. Dickel

I will always remember Gen. Gustav Braum, the Assistant Division Commander, making a grounds observation on Mar. 16, 1945 in front of 2nd Bn. As P.F.C. Liaison earlier in day my Corporal, Cpl. Clifford Coyle of Osceola, IA, was wounded while assisting Gen. Gustav Braum.

St. Patrick's Day, Mar. 17, 1945, Gen. Gustav Braum was killed in a light plane over the same position that I had marked out to him.

DOUGLAS M. DICKERSON, born Falkville, AL, Dec. 15, 1924. Entered service from Birmingham, AL, August, 1943. Basic training, Camp Croft, SC. Joined "C" Co. 135th Inf. Reg. March, 1944, prior to Anzio. Promoted to Sergeant June 1944. Staff Sergeant July, 1944. Received Battlefield Commission to 2nd Lieutenant February, 1945. Assigned to "M" Co. 135th Inf.

Douglas M. Dickerson

Two days after end of War assigned as Allied Military Governor of Gavi, Italy. Rejoined "M" Co., August, 1945 as Executive Officer.

Served in Pola, Italy and Udine. Discharged from Service 1st Lieutenant in January, 1946.

Has Silver Star, Oak Leaf Cluster, to 2nd Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge, five Ribbons with three major Battle Stars. Served overseas 24 months.

Wife, Jean, two sons, one daughter, and four grandsons.

Retired Supervisor with U.S. Steel after 41 years service. Reside in Birmingham, AL.

JERRY DICKINSON, born in Rapid City, SD. Serving in the 109th Eng. as a Private when the 34th was mobilized. Was reassigned to the 135th Inf. prior to being shipped to Northern Ireland for invasion staging and training.

Participated in the frontal assault by destroyer on Algiers harbor. Remained with the 135th throughout the Tunisian and Italian Campaigns, as an enlisted man in the 3rd Bn. and as an officer in the 1st Bn. after receiving a battlefield commission.

Jerry Dickinson

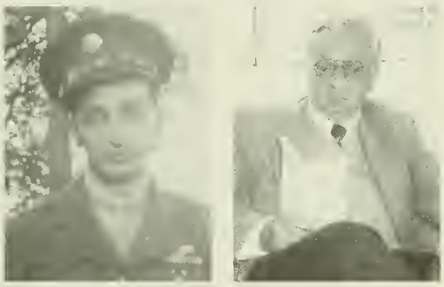
Left active duty to attend St. Louis University. Upon graduation, returned to active duty and was integrated into the Regular Army. Graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and earned a Masters Degree through off-duty attendance at Boston University.

After more than 34 years of service, retired as a Colonel in 1975.

Subsequent to military retirement, Jerry continued to be fully employed, primarily in health and public service positions. He is now fully retired but fully occupied. He and his wife "Lolly" enjoy their comfortable home in Mt. Horeb, WI, and the periodic visits by their nine children and families.

JOHN DiVINCENTIS, born June 23, 1920, Sunnyside, UT. Moved to Michigan 1924. Inducted Ft. Custer, MI Oct. 22, 1941. Basic Training, Camp Wolters, TX. Joined 34th Div. Ft. Dix, NJ. Shipped via Halifax, Nova Scotia to Belfast, Ireland, joined H Co. 2nd Bn., 133rd Inf. Reg. of 34th Div. Arrived England with 2nd Bn. Received Special Guard duty training for Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Africa, Feb. 19, 1942. Guarded Gen. Dwight D. Eishenhower. Next Combat Duty Anzio, Italy, rejoined 34th as a telephone line repairman, 2-way Radio operator and O.P. Captured two German soldiers, was unarmed except for Radio, received Bronze Star.

Discharged Aug. 1, 1945, Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, PA. Foreign Service, three years, two months and 29 days. Returned to Lincoln Park, MI and Ford Motor Company. Retired from Fords Oct. 31, 1974, after 35 years. Moved to Caseville, MI. Elected to Caseville Council and then Mayor, 1976 to 1982, Caseville Housing Commission Chairman, received Grant of 1.9 million for a 47 unit Senior Citizen Complex.



John DiVincentis

Received Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with three Bronze Stars. John left from Ft. Dix, NJ Feb. 19, 1942, arrived in Belfast, Ireland, Mar. 2, 1942, then to England and on to Algiers, Africa, then Naples, Italy and Anzio, Italy.

LYNN E. DUNGEY, born Alpha, IA Nov. 17, 1914. Enlisted Minnesota National Guard 34th Div. 135th Inf. Co. "H" (machine gun) Apr. 11, 1933 Austin, MN. Attended mobilization for training Camp Claiborn, LA. Promoted Staff Sergeant assigned position of Instrument Sergeant of "H" Co. (redesignated Heavy Weapons). At the declaration of war 2nd Bn. reployed to New Orleans, LA where I was assigned a special task to design and supervise the manufacturing of pedestal mounts to employ ground machine guns for aerial use. Deployed with unit to Ireland, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy serving with "H" Co. through the surrender of the Axis forces in Italy, except for a short TDY with a provitional Truck Bn. moving supplies for Sicily invasion. Hospitalized in September 1943 and again October 1943 - April 1944. RRR USA August - November 1944.

Lynn E. Dungey

Promoted Lieutenant April 1945. Served with Allied Military Government repatriation May-June 1945. Returned as casual on points June-July 1945. Separated one year then returned active duty retired from military as Major Dec. 31, 1962. Has Bronze Star, Purple Heart, C.B.I. plus five other Ribbons and five major Battle Stars. 36 months overseas during WWII. Wife (from 1939) four sons and nine grandchildren. Military and Civil Services retire Albert Lea Minnesota.

CHARLES W. EBERLE, SR., was born in Pittsburgh, PA on Dec. 21, 1914. Entered service Oct. 27, 1940. Basic training at Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA. Assigned to 168th Inf. Div. Went to Ft. Dix, NJ to leave States for North Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Left States first week of February 1941.

Invaded Africa at Algiers. We captured a fort at Cape Manijue. Invaded Italy at Salerno. Went all through the African and Italian Campaigns. Left the 168th Reg. to join up with the #1 British Commandos, Martain Troop, London. Served as Corporal under Lt. Martin. After they disbanded I rejoined the 34th Recon. Div. Was with the 34th Div. 37 months.

Charles W. Eberle, Sr.

Discharged at Indiantown Gap last week of August 1945. Retired: have wife, Ruth; three daughters; two sons; 13 grandchildren; one great grandson.

Lifetime Member of the 34th Inf. Div. Assn.

EUGENE R. EDWARDS, born in 1918 in Staples, MN. Enlisted Minneapolis. National Guard 151th F.A. October 1940. Guards federalized February 1941 to Camp Claiborne, LA. Served as Instrument Corporal - S-2 Assistant-Survey Corporal. First troops to Europe, Belfast, North Ireland January 1942. Fire Direction Sergeant 151st F.A. Bn. Ireland-England. Off duty time spent painting murals Rec. Halls, etc. Contribute cartoons to "Stars & Stripes". England to invasion Oran, No. Africa, Tunisian Campaigns Sbitla - Pichon - Hill 609. After hospital Africa reassigned as Sergeant Army Artist special services at Ft. Sam Houston. Discharged Point System 1945. Overseas 31 months. Four ribbons, two Bronze Stars. Civilian Graphic Artist. Three sons, Gary (Air Force, Europe), Bruce (Vietnam), Craig (youngest).

Eugene R. Edwards

Took part in British Movie, "Letter From Ireland". 1942 Crown Films, London made a Documentary of how well troops were doing in British Isles - This took many weeks of 151st F.A. Bn. time. It was previewed at Orpheum MPLS, for relatives, with great fanfare and publicity.

Edwards wrote parody lyrics to tune Bless 'Em All "Eleanore".

JOHN GRADY ELLIOTT, born June 9, 1921 at Corinth, MS. Drafted into the 133rd Inf., 3rd Bn., Co. "I", at Camp Shelby, MS on Oct. 17, 1942. From Camp Shelby to Ft. Bragg, NC and on to North Africa. Joined the 34th Div. near the Kasserine Pass on or about May of 1943. Here he transferred to the 133rd Inf. Div. Cannon Co.

After leaving Africa was shipped to the Boothill of Italy at Salerno, from here went all the way up through Italy and had entered the Brenner Pass when the war ended.

John Grady Elliott

The decorations he received are six Battle Stars, five Overseas Hash Bars, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Oak Leaf Cluster. Was discharged on Nov. 16, 1945 at Camp Shelby, MS with the rank of Platoon Tech. Sergeant.

Following his discharge he moved back to Corinth, MS. In 1949 he began working in the construction business, presently the owner of Excavators Inc., a company dealing in all areas of heavy earth work including road work, levy's rock quarries, and surface mining.

He married in 1961, has one son, one daughter, and two grandchildren.

EDWARD C. ENGLE, born LaPorte, IN on Oct. 6, 1919. Joined Co. E, 168th Inf. Reg. at Ft. Dix, NJ. Left for Ireland and later Scotland. Joined the British 6th Commandos. Made the landing in Algiers and five days later made the landing in Bone, on British Destroyers. Stayed with the Commandos until all Americans were sent back to their units. Rejoined Co. E and was first scout through Africa.

Edward C. Engle

Made the landing at Salerno. Later on further up in Italy, went on two patrols with the famous Sgt. Von Ripper. Lost more than 20 men on each patrol. Both patrols were late getting started and were ambushed. (Was Von Ripper on our side?) Was wounded at San Pietro. Returned to Company 30 days later. Left the Company above Florence, Italy. Turned down battlefield commission and came home January 1945.

CHARLES P. ETLING, was born in Connellsville, PA on Nov. 29, 1923. Entered Army in March 1943. On Nov. 11, 1943 six young men from Connellsville, PA joined Co. L, 135th Inf. as replacements. Two of these men were killed, the other four being wounded from one to three times. In February 1944 two more replacements from Connellsville, PA were assigned to Co. L. This may be a record for replacements in a line company.

My wife and I are retired and still live in Connellsville, PA. We enjoy meeting friends from service days and going to reunions.

EDWARD G. ETZEN, Co. F and Co. B-133rd Inf. 34th Div. Born on farm at Hayfield, IA July 12, 1922. Three years overseas. Joined National Guard in Mason City, IA 1939. Trained three weeks at Camp Ripley, MN.

Went in for one year training in 1940 at Camp Claiborne, LA. $21.00 a month.

When War was declared we went to Camp Dix, NJ. Then in January 1942 went to Ireland, Scotland and England. I was in several Bombing and V-2 raids on London. Then to Africa and then to Italy where I was wounded in heel, chest, back and ear drums were broken. Was captured for 24 hours before three of us escaped.

Attained rank of Sergeant. Discharged in September 1945 from St. Louis, MO.

Edward G. Etzen

I am now a salesman in the monument business. I live at 515 North 10th St., Forest City, IA.

Married to Dorothy M. Benson in March of 1951. Have one son Charles E. Etzen, 35 years old. Four grandchildren Heidi, Andrea, Drew and Devon Lacy.

Two Bronze Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, three major Campaign Ribbons, Purple Heart, European Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation.

ARTIE C. EVANS, JR., born July 12, 1920 at Glenwood, IA. He joined the 34th Div. Co. "I" in 1939. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. From there to Ft. Dix. Then to Ireland and Scotland for further training. Entered combat in Algiers North Africa. Captured by Germans at Faid Pass Feb. 17, 1942. Spent 27 months in P.O.W. camps in Germany and Italy.

Artie C. Evans, Jr.

Was discharged July 1945 at Camp Chaffee, AR. Following discharge, worked for U.P. in Council Bluffs for about six months then for Bloom's Hatchery in Glenwood for about two years.

Was married in October 1945. Have three sons and four grandchildren.

Artie started his own upholstery shop in 1948 in Glenwood and is now retired and still living in Glenwood, IA.

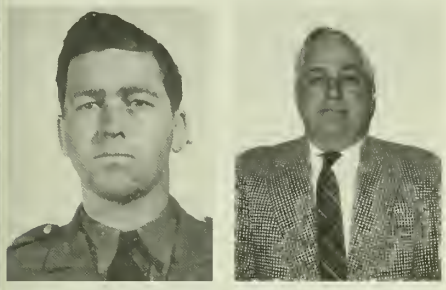
VERL K. FARNSWORTH, born Exline, IA, July 13, 1917 joined the National Guard, Co. G., 168th Inf., 34th Div., October, 1939 at Centerville, IA. Went to Camp Claiborne, February, 1941, for rifle training. Took part in the great Louisiana maneuvers and after war was declared was moved to Ft. Dix, NJ, in January, 1942 where he had more training and left for overseas duty in Ireland March, 1942 and on August, 1942 moved to Scotland and took amphibious training with British commandos for the invasion of North Africa. I then loaded on a British ship at Edenborough, Scotland in October, 1942 and on November, 1942 made the landing at Algiers. I was for awhile bivouced in an old college outside of Algiers. Then in December, 1942 moved to the front. Took part in several battles in Algiers and Tunis and five days before the North African Campaign was over I got shot through the head and shrapnel in my right foot. Spent several months in hospital near Algiers and in June 1943 left Algiers by hospital ship for U.S. arrival in New York July 4, 1943 after several months in the hospital was discharged in November, 1943.

Verl K. Farnsworth

Was awarded Purple Heart, Bronze Star and six other ribbons. Wife Donna, two daughters and one granddaughter.

WALTER FEMRITE, born Sept. 21, 1916, Dawson, MN. Entered National Guard, 1941, sent to Camp

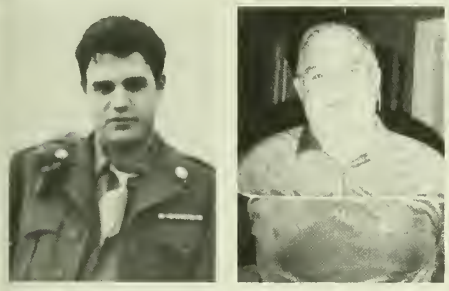
Claiborne, LA. Left for Ireland April, 1942, then to Africa, landing in Oran, Christmas 1942. Joined Headquarters Co., and formed kitchens. After short training, left for Invasion of Italy. Landed in Salerno Sept. 21, 1943. Took part in Italian campaign until Spring of 1945. Left for U.S. on fatigue duty. Point system came into effect, and I was discharged June, 1945.



Walter Femrite

Married, wife Janet, son Cary, daughter Kathleen. Enjoying retirement fishing at their lake cabin and a lot of traveling.

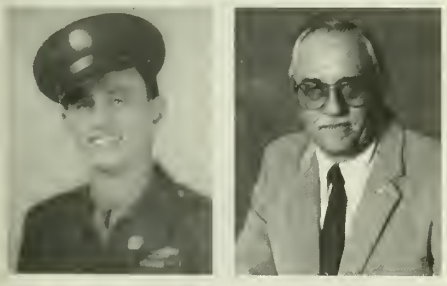
ANTHONY FESTA, born Jan. 22, 1925 in Brooklyn, NY. Drafted into the Army, Feb. 13, 1943. Sent to Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA, for infantry training. Then sent to North Africa, Sept. 2, 1943 and was selected for the 34th Inf. Div., Co. B, 133rd Reg. Defended my country in Salerno, Naples, Cassino, Anzio, Rome and up to the Northern Appennines. Left Italy on May 23, 1946. Was discharged from Ft. Dix, NJ on June 6, 1946.



Anthony Festa

I was awarded the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, etc. Was given credit for 33 months overseas and 3,132 combat hours at Cassino alone, and also many hours in Anzio. Following discharge I worked as a milkman and a Civil Service Employee. Has been active in the volunteer fire department for 25 years. Served in several positions including chief. Presently retired. Married Dec. 25, 1947, has two daughters and four grandchildren.

WALTER F. FIX, born Nov. 1, 1921 in Minneapolis, MN. I joined the 34th Div. Hq. Co. at the age of 16 in 1937. The division was federalized on Feb. 10, 1945 and sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. I was a radio operator and had the rank of T/4. We were shipped to Ireland for



Walter F. Fix

ten months when war broke out. Then to Africa and on to Italy. I had the pleasure of serving under Lt. Col. Filmore Mearns in Italy. I was sent home on points in May of 1945.

I worked for a paper company (Waldorf Corporation) for 38 years. I retired in 1983. I have been married for 41 years. We have three sons (one killed in Vietnam) and a daughter. I belong to the VFW and have gone through the chairs of post #5555 of Richfield. I am now serving as State Blood Chairman for the Department of Mn VFW.

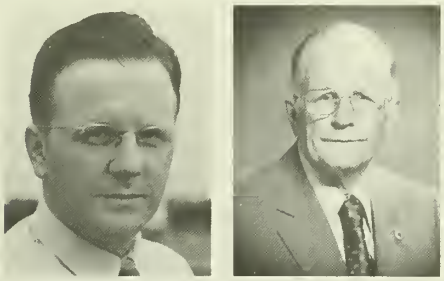
ARTHUR H. FLEISCHAKER, born Feb. 25, 1924 in Louisville, KY. Drafted while a freshman at Indiana University and entered Army Apr. 3, 1943. Took basic training at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Little Rock, AR, and shipped out of Norfolk, VA in August, 1943 for Casablanca. Was transported by a 40/8 railroad car to Bizarti and joined C Co. of the 135th Inf. of the 34th Div. after the second crossing of the Volturno River. Received a commendation and Bronze Star for action on July 4, 1944 in the vicinity of Rosignano, Italy.

Took part in battles and campaigns at Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Northern Appennines and Po Valley. Theatre ribbons include W/4 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct, Purple Heart and Victory Medal. Service 26 months overseas before leaving Army in November 1945.

Arthur H. Fleischaker

Wife, Rosa Lee, two children. Retired furniture retailer, now active as volunteer with the Red Cross, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) of Small Business Administration and past Louisville SCORE President. Lives in Louisville with wife and son.

MAURICE HAYES FLESHER, born Taylorville, IL, Apr. 11, 1909. Drafted and entered service Nov. 6, 1942, at Scott Field, IL. Basic training at Camp Roberts, CA. Joined 34th Inf. Div. as a replacement in Tunisia at Hq. of 135th Reg. Then to Service Company in Personnel checking MRs and keeping card file. Went to Italy in September 1943. To Division Headquarters at Anzio in G-1 Section with Lt. Col. Harold Stipp working strength report for Division. There until end of the war. Discharged Aug. 31, 1945, with 86 points, five Battle Stars and Bronze Star.



Maurice Hayes Flesher

Now live in Springfield, IL. Retired from farm credit and management and also First National Bank. Wife, Annamae (Easterday). Graduate University of Illinois, Honorable Colonel in Militia.

M.H. FORMBY, inducted on Feb. 20, 1943 at Ft. McPherson, GA, age 19. Transferred to Camp Walters, TX for basic training on Feb. 27, 1943. After basic training transferred to Camp Shannango, PA for processing for overseas duty. Transferred to Newport News, VA for embarkation to North Africa on July 14, 1943. Did not receive as much as a three-day pass before embarkation. I left home a civilian and returned as one.

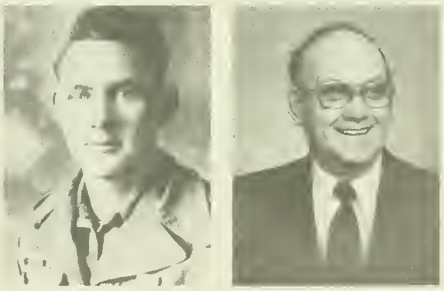
M.H. Formby

Arrived at Casablanca, North Africa on July 21, 1943 and was assigned to Co. K, 133rd Inf. 34th Div. Immediately the Division entered into 5th Army training school preparing for invasion of Italy. Landed in Italy on September 21. Remained with Company until December at Casino when I was evacuated with trench feet. Rejoined Company above Rome and remained until the end of war. Embarked for U.S.A. Oct. 22, 1945.

Campaigns: Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, North Appennines and Po Valley.

Discharged a M/Sergeant, Nov. 9, 1945 at Augusta, GA. Returned to Aragon, GA where I worked with same Company 31 years, eight months. Took early retirement at age 55 and still live at same address. Married in 1947 to Mildred Selman and have three daughters and six grandchildren.

JAMES FRALEY, Sgt. James Fraley - 35773157, was born in Weekberry, KY on June 30, 1925 and joined Army in September 1942. James was stationed in Texas, then to Norfolk, VA then to the 34th Inf. in 1943 with the Machine Gun Sdn. He was in the 168th Weapon Platoon, "D" Co. When the 34th Inf. returned to the States, he transferred to the 88th Div. There he was a communication chief. While in the 34th Inf., James received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and three other medals and three major Battle Stars. Out in 1953.



James Fraley

James has been with Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. for 32 years. He and wife, Loretta, reside at 1421 Huntington Dr., Findlay, OH. Would like to hear from the guys from the 168th Inf.

GEORGE W. FRODE, Staff Sergeant, born Minneapolis, MN, Dec. 13, 1919. Joined "C" Co. 135th Inf., Minnesota National Guard Nov. 25, 1936. Mobilized to Camp Claiborne, LA Feb. 2, 1941 to serve on Infantry Training Cadre.

Transferred to "A" Co. 133rd Inf. and shipped out of Ft. Dix, NJ for Northern Ireland Jan. 14, 1942. Took

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combat training in Ireland, Scotland and England. Invaded Africa at Algiers.

Served as Infantry Platoon Leader in Algeria French Morocco Camoaign, Tunisian Campaign and Italian Campaign.

George W. Frode

Wounded Nov. 6, 1943 at Venafro, Italy by enemy land mine while on patrol.

Awarded Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars.

Discharged with 70% disability rating from Schick General Hospital Nov. 1, 1944 after 46 months of active duty.

Retired and living with wife Elizabeth in Glenwood, IL.

RAYMOND L. GARRETT, Raymond L. Garrett was born in Bowie, TX Dec. 16, 1923 and went to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in June 1942 and joined the Army Signal Corp. Dec. 2, 1942. He took his training at Camp Kohler in California and joined the 34th Signal Co. of the 34th Inf. Div. in Tunisia, N. Africa. After the war in N. Africa was over the Division returned to Oran, N. Africa for additional training to prepare for the invasion of Italy. My Section landed at Naples and thus began the long struggle all the way to the Austrian and Swiss borders.

Raymond L. Garrett

The first real rough terrain came when we had to cross the Volturno River and due to our position in the line we had to cross the river three times. Then came Cassino with all its fortifications and the bombing of the Abbey. We were pulled back in March and on the 18th we sailed to the Anzio beachhead. On the 2nd day of April 1944 I was hit by a fragment of a German shell. Purple Heart Day.

On May 23, 1944 we began the breakout from the Anzio beachhead. We arrived in Rome on June 5th. On Aug. 12, 1944 while working on a wire detail pulling wires from a fire an artillery shell exploded and I and Pat Davidson were seriously wounded. Pat was returned to the States and I returned to duty after a month and two days in the hospital.

Then came the long winter and the deep snow in Mongadoro before the struggle for the Po Valley and final victory. I returned to the Division Headquarters in Cividale while we were on Occupation duty and after a ten day leave to Switzerland in August 1945 I returned to the States on November 8 in New York and was discharged at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX on Nov. 15, 1945.

THARE E. GAUTHIER, born Mar. 29, 1916, Southbridge, MA. Grew up and went to school in Woonsocket, RI. In 1936 became a mail carrier in Woonsocket. Married Jeannette E. Plasse in April 1941.

Inducted into the Army June 10, 1942 at Ft. Devens, Ayer, MA. By train to Ft. McClellan, Anniston, AL. Had my basic training.

By way of the "Queen Mary" joined the 34th in Ireland at Enniskillen in early September 1942 with the 135th Inf. Reg. — "To The Last Man."

After more training and transfers it was the "Torch" and North Africa with the 2nd Bn., G Co. at Oran, Algeria.

Knowing some "parley-vous-francais" was transferred to the Intelligence Section of Hq. Co. of the 2nd Bn. Duties included "interpreting," "reconnoitering" and liaison with the Ghoums and Spahis—the now friendly Arabs and French. All this around Pichon, Sbeitla, Fondouk and "Hill 609." Finally victory and parading in Tunis, Tunisia May 1943.

Thare E. Gauthier

During regrouping before Italy became orderly to the head of Hq. Co. of the Battalion.

We landed at Salerno, Italy in September 1943 and my new assignment is A&P - "Ammunition and Pioneer." It was now "Paralate Italiano" but the job was "Engineering," "Muleskinning," and "Flame Throwing."

We remember the Volturno - three times - the Rapido, also San Pietro, "Cassino" and the Abbey, Anzio Beachhead, Rome, June 1944, the Arno, Bologna and finally Milan - May 1945 - occupying over a month.

In August back to Caserta and Naples and aboard ship "West Point" it's home via Newport News, VA and Ft. Devens, MA for a "Discharge" Sept. 1, 1945.

Resuming civilian - U.S. Postal Service. Jeannette and I had a daughter, Muriel (now a nurse) and four grandchildren!

Now residing in Bellingham, MA the last 35 years. Retired 15 years ago with 35 years' government service.

Going back—heck—there's a lot between the lines?! Enough said!

ORIS M. GENTRY, born Sept. 20, 1924, South Bend, IN. Entered service Mar. 24, 1943, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis. Trained with the forming 66th Inf. Div., Camp Blanding, FL. Moved to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, AR. Shipped out in a replacement pool from Camp Patrick Henry, VA on Sept. 13, 1943, arriving Italy on Oct. 13, 1943.

Served with 1st Bn. 135th Inf. Reg. 34th Div. in the Pioneer and Ammunition platoon. Served as gunner in a unit that was formed in the North Appennines during the winter of 1944-1945, this unit firing .50 caliber machine guns in ground support. Served with Service Company 135 after wars end. Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Campaign Medal with five Battle Stars, Victory Medal, and Army of Occupation Medal. Discharged Nov. 8, 1945 at age 21. Wife Evelyn, two sons,

Oris M. Gentry

four grandchildren. Retired. Came home with 34th on U.S.S. Monticello.

LAVERNE GILL, went into active service Jan. 11, 1943 at Camp Upton, Long Island. Engineer training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. From there went to Atlanta, GA for automotive machinist training. Left U.S. June 6, 1943 and arrived in Casablanca, Africa June 13, 1943—(outran three subs on U.S.S. America.) Joined 34th Div. Co. B 109th Engrs. in North Africa. Took invasion training at Oran and went to Salerno, Italy. Went all the way up the "boot" to the Po Valley with Co. B. Left Italy Oct. 22, 1945 and arrived in U.S. on Nov. 3, 1945. Discharged Nov. 9, 1945. Stopped in New York City to see buddies. Arrived back home Nov. 11, 1945, exactly 34 months since the day I left home.

Laverne Gill

Spent most of working life (37 years) in General Electric, Schenectady, NY as a lathe operator. Married to Ellyn Gorden on Sept. 1, 1946. Have one son, Bruce, who is now a design engineer. I retired from G.E. on Mar. 1, 1985.

SID GOLDSTEIN, born (and raised) in Glen Cove, NY on June 11, 1920. Attended University of Alabama for one year (1938-1939). Enlisted for the Panama Canal Zone on Jan. 11, 1941. Started as a $21.00 per month Private, then Private First Class, Corporal, Sergeant, and S/Sergeant and then was accepted for Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, GA. Graduated Aug. 2, 1943 as a 2nd Lieutenant. After Camp Fannin, TX, Ft. Sam Houston, TX Ft. Livingston, LA shipped overseas as a replacement 2nd Lieutenant assigned to 1st Platoon Co. A, 168th Inf. Reg. on July 4, 1944. Around Sept. 15, 1944 transferred to 1st Platoon Co. A 133rd Inf. Reg. Left the 34th Div. April 1945 and returned to the USA.

Sid Goldstein

March 1945 was personally decorated by Five Star Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, with the Distinguished Service Cross for the capture of 67 Nazi soldiers in September 1944, north of Florence, Italy.

Promoted to 1st Lieutenant in February 1945; Captain in 1950 and Major in 1955. Retired as a Major on Feb. 28, 1961.

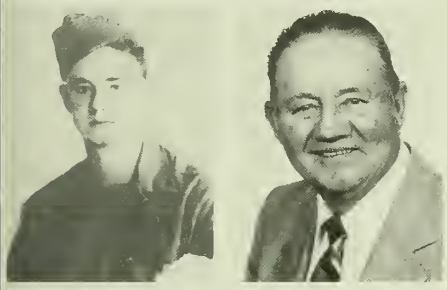
Served under the Ass't. Secretary of the Army, Tracy Voohees.

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Kramer; Gen. Yount from July 1951 to May 1952 in Pusan, Korea; Ass't. Chief of Security in Tokyo, Japan from June 1952 to January 1954 and then Governors Island from 1954 to 1961.

Retired after 20 years active duty from the U.S. Army to Westminster, CA. Married 38 years to wife Syd. Have five children and six grandchildren (to date).

Active in Veterans affairs throughout the county helping veterans of all wars.

T.W. GOODE, born May 8, 1922 in Merit, TX. Entered the Army on Nov. 13, 1942. Performed Basic Training in Mineral Wells, TX and was then sent to Camp Kember, NJ. Assigned to 34th Div., 3rd Bn., (135th Inf., Co. I, 2nd Platoon). Shipped to Oran, Africa. Landed in Salerno, Italy and went all the way to southern France. Received five Combat Medals. Discharged Oct. 8, 1945 in San Antonio, TX.

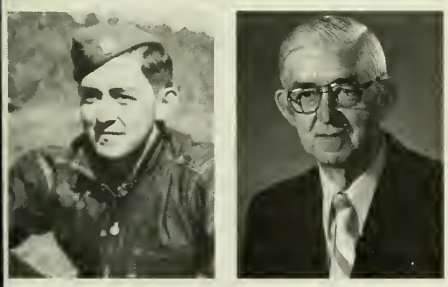


T.W. Goode

Following discharge, retired from Civil Service after 31 years. Married in 1949, have one daughter and one granddaughter.

JOHN T. GORMAN, in 1940, John T. Gorman entered Federal Service with the 27th National Guard Div. at Binghamton, NY. From Alabama's Ft. McClellan he went to Officer Candidate School Class #2 at Ft. Benning, GA and joined the 34th Div. in November, 1941 at Camp Claiborne, LA.

Assigned to the 133rd Inf. Reg. as Battalion Communications Officer, Lt. Gorman went with Regiment to guard the Port of New Orleans the night of 'Pear Harbor', Dec. 7, 1941. He sailed out of New York Harbor Jan. 15, 1942 aboard the British ship - H.M.S. Strathaird with Division and Regimental Headquarters, and the 1st Bn. of the 133rd. This first American Expeditionary Force to Europe in WWII landed on January 26, at Belfast, North Ireland.



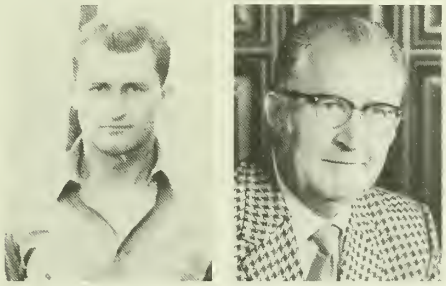
John T. Gorman

Looking for excitement, Gorman was assigned to Co. E. 133rd as First Lieutenant on August 20th at Caledon, North Ireland. He stayed with the 2nd Bn. for the next 22 months - in September moving to Shrivenham Barrocks near Swindon, England - on Christmas night, 1942 sailed from Scotland for Algiers, North Africa again on H.M.S. Strathaird - landed at Algiers Jan. 3, 1943 - moved to Constantine January 10th with Lt. Joseph Savage's platoon as guard for Allied Force Headquarters Advanced Command Post - to tent sites at AinBeida, Haidea, LeKef, Mateur and then Amilcar north of Tunis - back to Battalion at Algiers Aug. 8, 1943 - assigned to F Co. March, 1944 - landed at Anzio Beachhead Mar. 26, 1944 in Italy - June 5, 1944 moved to 1st Bn as A Co. Commander.

After recuperation leave at home, Gorman returned to the 133rd as CO of I Co. December 1944. Duty in North Italy included the French and Yugoslavia border as 3rd Bn. S-3 and S-3 of 133rd Reg.

Following V-J Day Gorman left the 34th Div., returned to New York State, graduated from college, and spent a long career in industry as an electrical engineer.

JOHN J. GOULISH, born July 28, 1915 in Punxsutawney, PA. Inducted into the Service in 1941 at Camp Wheeler, GA. Joined L Co. 168th, 34th Div. in Cassino, Italy as a Staff Sergeant. While there was made First Sergeant. Remained in Italy until the end of the War in 1945.



John J. Goulish

Wife Stella; two children and one grandson. Presently living in Boardman, OH. Retired in 1977 from Western & Southern Life after working as a sales representative for 31 years.

ELBERT C. GOURLEY, inducted into Army Oct. 27, 1941. Basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. Transferred to Ft. Dix, NJ to Co. C 1st Bn., 168th Reg. 34th Inf. Div.

Shipped to North Ireland. Stationed near the town of Iniskillen from Ireland shipped to Inversion, Scotland. Then shipped out of Glascow, Scotland on the Wandchester Casell for the Invasion of North Africa. Landed at Ft. Sidi Farce about 20 miles west of Algiers. Moved up to Tunis.

Was wounded by machine gun fire in the first battle for Semead Station. Helped a buddy who was severely wounded back to the aid station and silenced the machine gun fire that was firing at us. Was put in for a Silver Star Medal, in writing the citation my Lieutenant used the word retreat. Division HQ and the General didn't like the word retreat. My Lieutenant was killed before he could rewrite the citation.

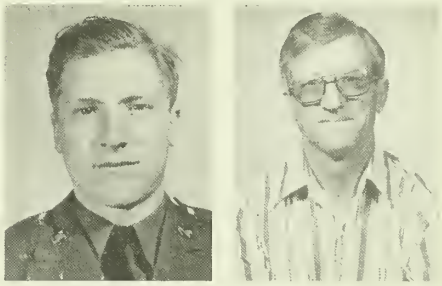
Elbert C. Gourley

Was in the retreat from Kaserene and many other battles in Africa. Landed at Salerno in Italy, moved north and crossed the Volturno River three times, waded in mud, climbed mountains and fought on Mount Pantano. Earned a Silver Star on a hill with number of 820 for taking a two man machine gun nest and laying wire on top of the hill and directed 60 MM mortar fire and silenced two other machine gun emplacements. Wounded second time by an anti-personnel mine in an attack on the Monastery at Caseno after crossing the Rapido River the last part of January 1944.

Went to Anzio beachhead and rotated home from Anzio Easter of 1944. Received two Purple Hearts, Combat Infantry Medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star and five Battle Stars. Married my wife on May 27, 1944 and we have five children: Mike, Jeff, Tim, Pat and Diedre. Retired from Madison Post Office after 36 years of service.

JAMES L. GREGORICH, Pfc. born Bernard, IA June 1, 1918. Entered Army Nov. 10, 1941 at Ft. Des Moines, IA.

Stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC until February transferred to Ft. Dix, NJ. Set sail for Northern Ireland Apr. 30, 1942 aboard "Acquintania" for intensive combat training embarked for Africa October 21. Participated Algiers landing and Tunisian Campaign, in the Invasion of Italy, the Naples Foggia, Rome Arno. No Appennines and Po Valley Campaigns. Received six Overseas Service Bars, Good Conduct Medal, America Defense Service Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with Silver Battle Star and one Service Stripe.



James L. Gregorich

Served 33 months as cannoneer, one year as truck driver, when necessary stretcher bearer. Departed Italy to Casablanca for home Aug. 6, 1945. Arrived August 12 (never home since induction). Married wife Delores October 1947. One daughter, three sons, eleven grandchildren, and three stepgrandchildren. Farming since 1946 at Zwingle, IA.

HARRY L. GROVER, born May 22, 1918. In the 133rd Inf. I was known as "Scotty." Everyone of military age was required to register for the draft in, I believe, October 1940. I was working in a sawmill in Itasca Co., MN. My registration number was so low I decided to enlist for a year which was permitted. So on Apr. 8, 1941 I was sworn into the Army.

Sent to A Co. 135th Inf. at Claiborne. December transferred to 133rd Inf. A Co. Embarked and sailed Jan. 15, 1942 from New York and arrived in Belfast Jan. 27, 1942. Departed Liverpool 1:00 P.M. Dec. 25, 1942; arrived Oran Jan. 3, 1943. Our transport rammed a few hours before arriving in Oran. Arrived in our battle sector Feb. 14, 1943. Arrived Italy mid September 1943. Went to hospital June 26, 1944. Transferred to a rear Sig. Co. late August 1944. Sent to U.S. via air through Brazil; arriving in Miami Feb. 19, 1945.

Twenty major battles on my service record. M.O.S. specs for rifleman, bar radio operator, driving permit for all vehicles through two and one-half tons 6x6 overseas as well as U.S. Discharged Aug. 27, 1945, Ft. Logan, Denver, CO.

After service I farmed, fed cattle and hogs, owned my land and retired from that business Mar. 15, 1974.

Harry L. Grover

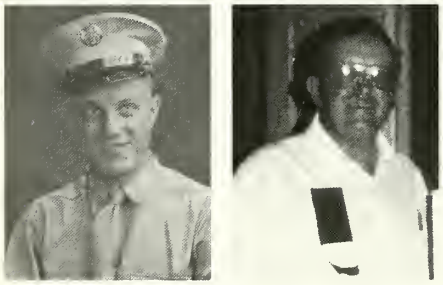
My wife and I occupy a modest home and only engage in pleasurable things. In summer I fish for trout in Wyoming; in winter I trap predators.

I consider my service as that of the average G.I. and under the same circumstances I'd gladly do it again. I've met a lot of really good men and a few that I wish I hadn't. Medals? As I said I consider my service average, not many in the 133rd were handed medals except the Purple Heart. Family? I met my wife in Ireland and no one ever raised a better daughter.

JOSEPH GUMAN, was born Sept. 17, 1924 in Jessup, PA. I was drafted Aug. 5, 1942, Serial No. 33-609-412, grade P.F.C. Taken into the 34th Inf. Div. Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 135th Inf.

Shipped to Ft. McLean, AL for eight weeks of basic training; later shipped to Virginia to get an air carrier to Naples; next to the Anzio Beachhead; all through Italian Campaign until war ended in Italy.

I received Combat Medal, World War II Victory Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign, three Bronze Stars.

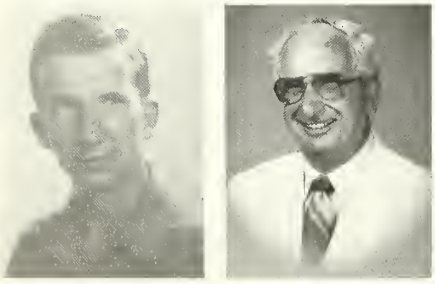


Joseph Guman

I went to a reunion in Niagara Falls, NY in 1984 and met Orvis Gentry. It was a wonderful feeling to meet him. We had a great time.

Was discharged on Dec. 29, 1945. I got married and have three sons and five grandchildren - four girls and one boy. I am retired now and in fairly good health.

JOHN J. HAFER, born June 13, 1923 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Drafted Mar. 23, 1943. Basic training at Camp Robertson, AR. Sent to Camp Young, CA. Back to Hattesburg, MS. Sailed from New Port News, VA to Bizerti, Africa. Transferred to 34th Div. in November 1943. Assigned to Co. "A" 168th Inf., under Capt. Ben Butler.



John J. Hafer

Fought thru Monte Pantano Campaign, unit received Presidential Citation.

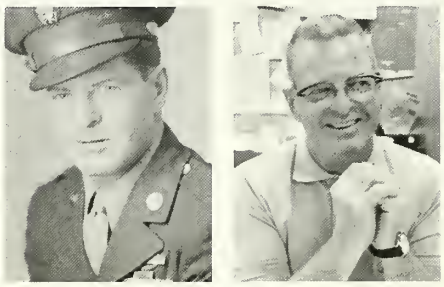
Received the Purple Heart on Jan. 7, 1944, then thru Italy to Valturia, Italy, where I received the second Purple Heart. In Naples Hospital until Oct. 6, 1944, back to states to Billings Hospital at Indianapolis, IN.

Discharged in November of 1944, returned to Mt. Pleasant, opened a hardware store in business for 37 years. Sold in 1982, still live in Mt. Pleasant.

Mary and I were married in 1943, have three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

LEO A. HAGEN, (RUSTY), born Sept. 23, 1916, Appelton, MN. Died Oct. 6, 1972, Colorado Springs, CO.

Served three years with Iowa National Guard, Co. H, Mason City, IA. Enlisted Army, February 1941, Co. H 34th 133rd Inf. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA, for one year of training. Left New York, February 1942 and arrived Belfast, Ireland, March 1942. Sent to North Africa and served as guard escort for Gen. Eisenhower and weapons instructor. December 1942 shipped to Italy, landing Anzio Beachhead. Wounded in action May 28th and June 3rd, 1944. Awarded two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters for Rome-Arno and Naples-Foggia Campaigns. Hospitalized in Italy and England. Returned to the U.S.A. Nov. 11, 1944. Discharged from service June 1945, Rank T/Sergeant.



Leo A. Hagen

Married Grayce E. Thomas, Nov. 30, 1944, Mason City, IA. They moved to Austin, MN and established and operated "Hagen's Window Fashions" until 1962. Moved to Colorado Springs, CO and worked as Games Area Manager for Colorado College. They have one son Jerry L. and three grandchildren.

AUGUST HALLIDAY, born New York City on Jan. 28, 1920. Drafted September 1941 at Ft. Dix, NJ. Trained as Tank Destroyer and Telephone Communications Man at Camp Croft, SC. Assigned to 3rd Bn., H.Q. Co., 135th Inf. at Ft. Dix, NJ, February 1942. Served as Telephone Jeep Driver in Northern Ireland, England, North Africa and Italy. Fought at Fondouk Pass, Hill 609, Monte Cassino, Anzio, Rome and Leghorn. Jeep earned at least six Purple Hearts.

August Halliday

Has Bronze Star, four other Ribbons, three Battle Stars; 34 months overseas. Discharged 1945.

Wife, Grellanda; one son, one daughter and one grandson. Retired Postal Clerk.

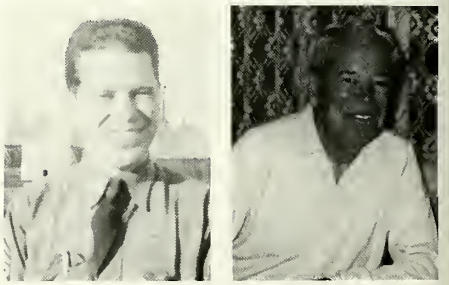
HARRY HALVERSON, born Jan. 25, 1917 at Scandia, MN. Left for service Apr. 25, 1941 from Decorah, IA. Sent to Ft. Des Moines, then on to Jefferson Barracks, MO. From there assigned to Btry. "A" 185th, Field Atry., at Camp Claiborne, LA. When Division was reorganized, was transferred to Co. "A" of the 109th Engrs. 34th Div. Sent to Ft. Dix, NJ. Left there on Jan. 15, 1942 for North Ireland. Was with First American Troup to march down streets of Belfast, Ireland, on Jan. 25, 1942.

Harry Halverson

Trained in North Ireland, for landings at North Africa. Was assigned to 100th, American Japanese Battalion for landing at Salerno, Italy. Was also in landings at Anzio, Italy. Went up through the rest of Italy and into Southern France. Served 44 months overseas. Co. "A" had 616 days of Combat duty. Discharged at Ft. Sheridan, IL in September 1945.

Served as Deputy Sheriff of Winneshiek Co., IA for three and one-half years. Was auctioneer and sale barn manager for 35 years. Also farmed. Married have six sons and one daughter. Also ten grandchildren. Am now semi-retired.

ROBERT WYLIE HARTWELL, (WOOG), born in 1909 in Council Bluffs. Joined Division Headquarters Company, 34th Inf. Div. of the Iowa National Guard in 1928 and was inducted into Federal Service with that unit in 1941. I "roughed it" as a Warrant Officer in the Finance section at Div. Hq. and stayed with the Division throughout Claiborne, Ireland, Africa and Italy.



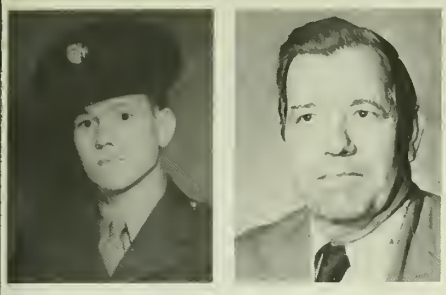
Robert Hartwell

Those in the front line units don't realize how tough we had it in the rear echelon—there were some days when we were unable to get olives for our martinis.

I pursued "finance" into civilian life as a banker in Los Angeles, CA. Still single. No children—that I know of.

LAWRENCE HARTZELL, (#36737534 - #09990611) was born Apr. 19, 1924 at Campo, CO. Was drafted from Franklin Grove, IL Mar. 1, 1943 and was inducted same date at Camp Grant, Rockford, IL. Shipped out next day to Ft. McClellan at Anniston, AL. Had 13 weeks basic training and in June was sent to a replacement camp at Shanango, PA. Was there only a few days and then was shipped by way of Washington, DC to Newport News, VA.

Left the States on July 14 and arrived at Casablanca, Morrocco on July 21. Was then shipped overland to Oran Algeria whereon the 26th of July I joined Co. I

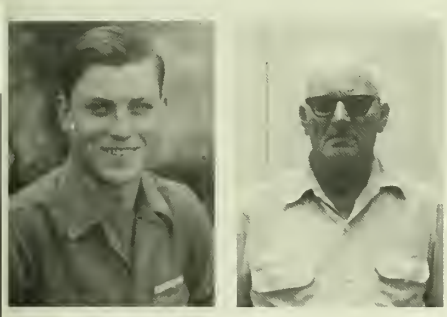


Lawrence Hartzell

133rd Inf. I was discharged Dec. 13, 1944 to accept a commission and was then reassigned to Co. H for the balance of the war in Italy. I left the Division in June 1945 and was assigned 5th Army duties.

Came home a month after the Division leaving Leghorn and came back through Newport News. Was separated from the Service at Camp Grant, Rockford, IL in November 1945. Following separation I married Bobbie Cooper at Wichita, KS Dec. 11, 1945. We settled back in home area in Lee County. Farmed for five years, then went into insurance work in 1951. Still working but aim to semi-retire this May 1988. We have five grown and married children with seven grandchildren.

ROY W. HASTINGS, born Mar. 3, 1922 in Ricnzi, MS. Inducted into service Jan. 14, 1944 at Camp Shelby, MS. Transferred to Ft. McClellon, AL for further training. From Ft. McClellon he went to Baltimore, MD where he was shipped to London, England. From London across the English Channel to Normandy then to Florence, Italy where he joined the 34th Div., Co. G, 168th Inf.



Roy W. Hastings

Went all the way through Italy, then the Appennines and the Po Valley until the war ended. The decorations he received are the EAMET's Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, three Battle Stars.

Was discharged Mar. 8, 1946 at Camp Shelby, MS. Following discharge, he went into farming and factory work and is now retired.

Married in 1941, has one son and one grandson.

FLETCHER HATHAWAY (RED), born Jan. 19, 1919, Tingley, IA. Volunteered for the draft from Ames, IA; inducted Apr. 7, 1941.

Basic training at Camp Claiborne, LA with K Co. 168th Inf. When war was declared, transferred to K Co. , 133rd.

Left Ft. Dix, NJ for Ireland early 1942 for combat training. Landed at Oran, Africa; led a squad thru the African Campaign. Trained there for the invasion of Italy. Landed at Salerno, Italy September 1943. Led the 3rd Platoon to Cassino. Wounded there Feb. 4, 1944 and sent home.

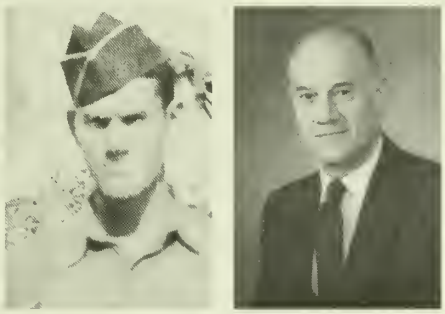
Has Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantry Medal, five other Ribbons and three Major Battle Stars; 26 months overseas. Discharged as T/Sergeant in June 1945.

Retired from farming at Grand Meadow, MN with

Fletcher Hathaway

wife Bernie. Spend winters in South Texas. Has four daughters, two sons and 15 grandchildren.

THOMAS R. HAUN, born July 27, 1924 at Cleveland, TN. Inducted in the Army of the United States on July 13, 1943 at Ft. Oglethorpe, GA in Co. C, 168th Inf. Div. From Ft. Oglethorpe he trained for battle at Ft. Riley, KS. After 13 weeks of basic training was shipped to North Africa, from there to Angio Beach, Italy where he was wounded in battle Sept. 29, 1944. The decorations he has received are European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, Purple Heart GO#78, Rifle Marksman and Combat Infantry Badge. He was Squad Leader of the 745th Division. Was discharged from Welch Convalescent Hospital, Daytona Beach, FL on July 2, 1945.



Thomas R. Haun

Thomas is Trustee of Monroe Co., TN for the past 20 years. Married in 1946 and has one daughter and two grandchildren. Resides at 1004 E. North Street, Sweetwater, TN.

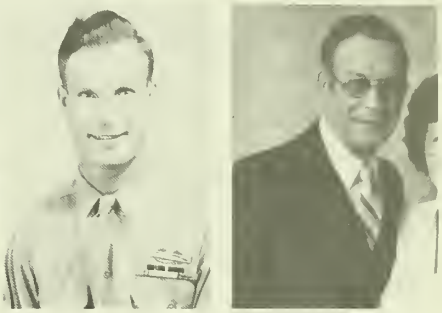
Thomas was proud to serve his country with the Red Bull as Squad Leader Staff Sergeant.

RAY HEFNER, was born Mar. 27, 1919. Entered Army Nov. 26, 1941. Left Taylorsville, NC with a whole bus load of good old boys going to Ft. Bragg, NC. We stayed there about a week and half; was serving in the Army and went to Camp Croft, SC for training. Shipped out half of us to Ft. Dix, NJ and the other half to California. I went to Ft. Dix. On Apr. 29, 1942, after my training, I went overseas to North Africa and trained about six months. Then participated in the invasion of Algiers. We would attack on weekends in order to catch them off guard.

Ray Hefner

Next was sent to a little place called Crow More a Tourn and stayed awhile. Then we were sent to Italy. Next to Anzio Beachhead, where after landing we were penned in and had to dig-in, remaining in our foxholes until help arrived and we could go forward. The 34th Div. men were called "Dogfaces" who smiled through tears as we marched day and night. You got to rest ten minutes out of an hour. We marched 40 miles a day sometimes and my feet had blisters, but we had to keep going. Whatever was happening it was hard, but the "Dogfaces" smiled through tears and we made it, thank God. A lot of the boys' feet froze off, but we had to keep trucking on.

GEORGE A. HEGVICK, was born at Binford, ND on Nov. 23, 1917. Drafted out of Iowa Falls, IA in June 1941 and assigned to M Co. 168th Inf. Reg., stationed at Camp Claiborne, LA. Went through basic training and the 41 Maneuvers in Louisiana. Was transferred to M Co. 133rd Inf. before leaving for Ireland on Feb. 22, 1942, sailing on HMS Duchess of Athol. Spent the balance of time in the service with "Rugged M" 133rd Inf.



George A. Hegvick

Served through African and Italian Campaigns as machine gunner, squad leader, section leader and platoon leader attaining the rank of tech. sergeant. Wounded three times and have the Purple Heart, two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster. Discharged in July 1945 after 49 months in service, 39 of which were overseas.

Retired from White Farm Equipment, a subsidiary of White Motor. Wife Evelyn and daughter Mary Kallod, husband Randy, and their daughter Ashley continue to reside in Fargo, ND.

Member of American Legion and DAV posts in Fargo.

JOHN L. HENDRICK, born Jan. 14, 1920 on farm near Eldorado, IL. After high school went to East Alton, IL and got a job at Alton Box Board. Was inducted in Army at E. St. Louis, IL, November 1941. Sent to Ft. Sheridan, Chicago, IL. Took training at Camp Croft, SC. Joined the 34th Div. at Ft. Dix, NJ. Was with K Co. 135th Inf. Reg. Left New York on the Acquitania in April, arrived in Ireland May 10, 1942. Went to invasion of Africa at Algeria, was later transferred to anti-tank platoon. Went all through Africa and all through Italy. Was overseas over three years. Was wounded twice.

John L. Hendrick

Have Purple Heart, Silver Star, five Battle Stars, small divisional awards. Assumed 517 days combat. Some units were engaged in combat 611 days according to division records. Was discharged in June 1945. Went back to old job and worked 40 years and retired. Married, have two sons and one daughter and four grandchildren.

WORTH HENDRICKSON, born Aug. 23, 1918 in Raub, ND. I was drafted out of Parshall, ND and inducted to Ft. Snelling, MN in April of 1941. I joined Co. L 135th Inf. at Camp Claiborne, LA for basic training and maneuvers.

When war was declared we soon were at Ft. Dix, NJ and on our way to Northern Ireland. I was part of a group who was trained to invade North Africa via the port of Algiers. After the Tunisian Campaign, where I was wounded, we sailed to Salerno, Italy. In Italy, after many months of combat, I was captured by the Germans on Nov. 8, 1943 and was held prisoner for 19 months in a German prison camp.

I was liberated by the Russians in May of 1945 and was discharged at Camp Chaffee, AR in September of 1945.

Following discharge, I farmed for 15 years and then went to work for the Department of Defense. I retired in January of 1983 in Barstow, CA. Married in 1947, have two daughters, one son, two stepsons and twelve grandchildren.

ERVIN HINTON, was born July 9, 1922 at Foreman, Little River, AR. Drafted Nov. 4, 1942 to Camp Pendleton, CA, then to Shenango, PA to Ship Empress of Scotland to Casablanca, Africa. Was wounded near Naples and returned to U.S. on U.S.S. Gen. Butner.

Battles: Naples-Foggia, and Rome-Arno. Received Combat Infantry Badge, Rifleman, Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Purple Heart, two Overseas Service Bars, one Service Stripe, European African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, and three Bronze Battle Stars. Discharged from Army-Navy Hospital, Hot Springs Dec. 21, 1945.

Married in 1950 to Wausita Lisenby, two sons Ladell and Doyce, one grandson Whitney. Was badly wounded in left arm and leg, but proud to have served his country with the Red Bull in 135th Inf. Co. E.

OSCAR L. HOENES, born Palmyra, MO, Nov. 7, 1918. Inducted Jefferson Barracks, May 1st, 1941. Joined Co. H 136th Med. Reg. about May 5th, at Camp Claiborne, LA 34th Div. Later changed to Co. C 109th Med. Bn. Serving the 168th Inf.

More training in North Ireland and Scotland. Invaded Africa at Algiers.

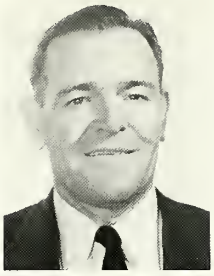
All but 13 of us were captured at Faid Pass. A very good friend, Freeman Goodelk "A Sioux Indian" and I drove the only ambulance back from Faid Pass. "Blackout."

Oscar L. Hoenes

Was in six major battles in Africa and Italy. Invaded Italy at Salerno. Was at Anzio, the push for Rome, up Highway 65 through Italy. Was Mess Sergeant last year and a half. In service 52 mo.

Out in 1945. Wife Mildred. Have five children, 14 grandchildren, one great grandchild. Retired after 27 years as a Standard Oil Agent. Live in Mattoon, IL. I am in good health.

JAY F. HOLLYFIELD, born Feb. 23, 1914 in Bluefield, WV. Was drafted on Apr. 5, 1941. Worked for DuPont Co. at Belle, WV at this time. Was assigned to the 113th Med. Reg. 38th Div. at Camp Shelby, MS. After war was declared appeared before the officer candidate board and was accepted. Sent to Ft. Benning, GA in May 1942. Was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant Infantry on Aug. 18, 1942. Embarked for North Ireland on Sept. 14, 1942. After spending a short time in Litchfield Barracks in England was sent back to North Ireland. Assigned to the Anti-tank Co. 135th Reg. 34th Div. was stationed at this time in Clogher Co., Tyrone Northern Ireland.



Jay F. Hollyfield

Served with this unit (135th Inf. Reg.) in various capacities. The last six months as Co. Commander until March 1945. At this time I was granted a 45 day leave on temporary duty in the USA. Was due to return to my unit on May 9th. The war ended on May 7, so I was sent to Camp Buckner, NC for assignment. Was sent to Camp Hood, TX and assigned to the 94th Inf. Training Reg. Was released from the service Sept. 26, 1945. Returned to my job with DuPont. Married in 1947, one daughter, two sons, three grandchildren. Now retired.

ARTHUR W. HOOD, born in Georgia, VT Jan. 8, 1918. Entered service Feb. 5, 1943, received basic training at Ft. Bragg, NC. Left the States for North Africa where he was assigned to the Service Btry, 185th Field Artillery Bn. 34th Inf. Div. Drove truck and hauled supplies and ammunition for the battalion.

Invaded Italy at Salerno, was wounded at Venafro, left Service Battery 185th Field Atry. Bn. when the division was north of Rome. Has received the Purple Heart and two other ribbons.

Arthur W. Hood

He was discharged Nov. 29, 1944. After service he was employed as personnel manager by U.M.C. Industries until retirement.

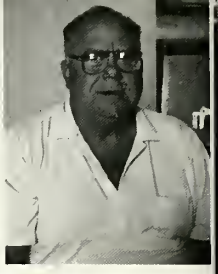
Wife Maddalena Cimmino, two daughters, Barbara and Susanna, three grandchildren and resides in Claverack, NY.

WARREN E. HUFFMAN, born Chicago, IL, 1920. Joined Iowa National Guard, 1935.

Promoted 1st Sergeant 1939. Inducted Feb. 10, 1941. Co. C 168th Inf. 34th Div.

Battles and Campaigns: Algeria - Fr Morocco, Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno.

Decorations and Citations: Awarded four Bronze Stars for Algeria - Fr Morocco, Tunisia, Naples-Foggia,



Warren E. Huffman

Rome-Arno Campaigns Per Ltr NATOUSA 1943 Bronze Star Medal GO 39, HQ 34th Inf. May 19, 1944, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation WD, GO 86, Nov. 8, 1944. Discharge Aug. 31, 1945. Now retired from Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, 34 years, and now enjoying Ham Radio at R.R. I Box 81 Moravia, IA.

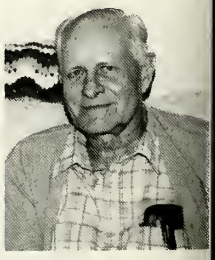
ROBERT LEE HUNT, born Oct. 12, 1922 to Mr. and Mrs. Arden Hunt, Sr. of Union Mills, IN. Inducted February 1943. Basic training Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA. Assigned 34th Inf., Sept. 20, 1943. Co. M, 133rd Inf. Bn.

Robert Lee Hunt

In heavy weapons in 5th Army. Practiced in North Africa. Hit the beachhead at Salerno, Italy two weeks after invasion. Awarded the Purple Heart December 1943, Oak Leaf Cluster, June 8, 1944. Spent 22 months in front line combat. Some battles - Cassino, Anzio, Bologna. Life miraculously spared because of his personal relationship and faith in his Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.

Discharged November 1945 with 28 months abroad. Married July 20, 1946 to Eleanor Coughenour. Children June, Lawrence, Kenneth and four grandchildren. Gas serviceman 36 years with Public Utilities. Retired and lives full-time in travel trailer doing volunteer construction for Christian camps and churches around the U.S.A.

VERNON JACOBSON, born Nov. 6, 1918 at Elmore, MN. Drafted into the Army and was sworn into the U.S. Service at Camp Dodge on May 5, 1941. Shipped to Jefferson Barracks, MO, then sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Joined the Medical Detachment of the 133rd Inf. Reg. of the 34th Div. Completed Basic Training with the 133rd Med. Det. and spent the rest of the summer on Army maneuvers in the state of Louisiana.



Vernon Jacobson

Went to Ft. Dix, NJ in January 1942, transferred to Co. O 109th Medical Bn. and left for Ireland in February. Shipped to North Africa, went through Algeria, Tunisia and then to Salerno, Italy. Left the Division from the area of Bologna, Italy, arrived home on rotation in February, 1945. Discharged at Ft. Leavenworth, KS on Aug. 15, 1945.

Married, have three sons, two daughters and ten grandchildren.

Worked as a grain elevator manager in Hartley, IA until retirement.

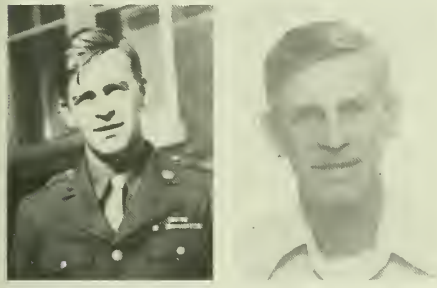
REUBEN C. JAMES, MSG, born in Huhhell, MI, Mar. 21, 1917. Raised in Hancock, MI.

Entered the Army Nov. 28, 1941 at Ft. Sheridan, IL. Received basic training at Camp Croft, SC. Joined the 34th Div. at Ft. Dix, NJ and was assigned to Co. G, 2nd Bn., 168th Reg. as BAR gunner. Served in Northern Ireland.

Scotland - Attached to British VI Commandos, Africa - Rejoined Co. G 168th. Appointed Platoon Sergeant 1st Platoon. Italy - Wounded near Dragoni and again on the drive to the Ahhey.

The hospital would not release me to return to the front. On July 17, 1944 sailed for the USA.

Assigned to Sqdn. 348th AAFBU, Will Rogers Field, OK. Discharged Sept. 7, 1945.



Reuben C. James

Awards received from Nov. 28, 1941 through Sept. 7, 1945: Bronze Star, Purple Heart W/one Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, American Defense Medal, World War II Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/six Battle Stars, American Campaign Medal.

Re-enlisted Nov. 7, 1947 to make the Army a career. Served in: Korea-awarded Campaign Medal w/seven Battle Stars, France, Canada, Germany, Vietnam - Awarded Campaign Medal w/seven Battle Stars. The Army Commendation Medal w/three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Retired at Ft. Riley, KS on Feb. 1, 1974. I am now living in Salina, KS with my Scottish-born wife. We have three children and three grandchildren.

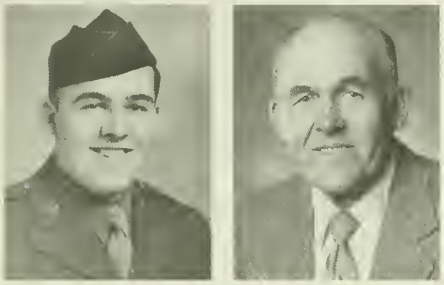
WALTER R. JAMROSE, born Dec. 10, 1918 at Whiting, IN. Was inducted into the Army on Oct. 17, 1941. Sent to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN and then to Camp Wheeler, GA for basic training. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ and transported to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Sent to Ireland and Scotland where we trained with the English for several months. Joined the convoy at Liverpool, England and landed at Algiers as part of the

Walter R. Jamrose

invasion of North Africa in November, 1942. Captured at battle of Kasserine Pass on Feb. 17, 1943.

Sent to Naples, Italy then to Stalag VII A in Munich, Austria. Sent to Stalag IIIB, Spremberg, Germany and then to a work camp in Spremberg, Trattendorf, Germany. Was liberated in April 1945 by the 4th Wolverine Division. Discharged on Aug. 31, 1945 at Camp Chaffee, AR. Worked at Amoco Oil Company for 37 years and retired in 1983. I am widower with a son and grandson.

WALDON H. JOHNSON, born Kingsburg, CA. Inducted into Army Oct. 17, 1942. Took basic training at Ft. Bragg, NC on 105 MM Howitzers. Btry. A, 5th Bn., 2nd Reg. Spent one month at Camp Shenango, PA. Two weeks at Camp Kilmer, NJ.



Waldon H. Johnson

Departed U.S. Apr. 2, 1943 for Casablanca, North Africa aboard S.S. Monterey. Was in replacement camp at Casablanca, one month. May 1943, joined Btry. C, 185th F.A. Bn. at Saint Joseph's Farm near Tunis, North Africa. Arrived in Italy at Salerno. Duty was loading 155 MM Howitzers all through Italian campaign. Arrived back in U.S. Nov. 3, 1945 with T 5 rank. 31-1/2 months overseas.

Wife: Lydia, daughters; Ruth and Gloria. Grandchildren: Brian and Stacy Ekberg. Waldon farms grapes, plums and peaches.

BENJAMIN JONES, born Jan. 12, 1911 at Taylor, PA. Educated at Taylor High School and Wharton School of Finance Extension in Scranton, PA. Drafted from Pittshurgh, PA and sent to Ft. Meade, MD on June 10, 1942 and then to Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA for Basic Training. In October, 1942, I was placed on Enlisted Reserve basis and was recalled to duty after Pearl Harbor and sent to Ft. Dix, NJ to join Headquarters Company of the 168th Inf. Reg. We left Brooklyn Navy Yard aboard the Duchess of Athol enroute to Northern Ireland. We had a platoon that would do many necessary odd jobs. This platoon was assigned to equip a jeep for the Queen's convenience to climb up to a high point in the Mourne Mountains where she and the King were to ohserve maneuvers. Meanwhile, the platoon, who labelled themselves the "Classy Crapper Can Corporation", had built a restroom for the convenience of her Majesty during her stay on the Mountain. Though she lunched with the troops, she did not find it necessary to use the restroom.

From Northern Ireland we were sent to Scotland for more training with British troops and for landing maneuvers on the many Lochs in Scotland. At the Duke of Argyl's Estate in Scotland, we had most vigorous training with the British Troops and many practice landings from large ships.

Following our extended work with the British, we were put ahoard ship headed for the Port of Algiers and our introduction to Combat. Our landing was successful and we took the high ground surrounding Algiers. General Eisenhower commended our Unit for meritorious service. From Algiers we headed to Tunis and encountered Gen. Rommel and his Wehrmacht at Kasserine Pass where our tanks were outgunned by the Germans' 77s and 88s. Our First Tank Division suffered many, many, casualties during this Battle.

We moved eastward to Faid Pass where, cut off from

Benjamin Jones

the rest of our division, we were outnumbered and suffered casualties at the hands of more experienced German troops who controlled the high ground. Here several hundred men were captured and I began my 26 months as a POW. We were marched through the desert to Tunis where we were kept at a horse race track for about two weeks. We then were flown out on German J.U. 52s. After refueling in Sicily, we were flown to Naples where the Italians ran a camp for prisoners from Algeria and Tunisia. Priests there were able to send messages home thru the Vatican's Telegraph.

From there we were jammed aboard small box cars and headed thru Brenner Pass for Stalag 7B in Munich, Germany. Later we were sent to Trattendorf on Spree to a work camp for prisoners.

When the Russians were pushing the Germans westward, we were marched daily with older guards in charge. Each day we were given a ration of bread and at night they would put us up for the night in cattle or hay barns made available by farmers. The Germans appeared to be falling apart when we crossed the Elhe River into Bitterfield, Germany where we were liberated by the 3rd Inf. Div. and sent by train to an American Coastal Camp for POW's at LaHavre, France. From there we were put aboard the ship, General Buckner, thence to Newport News, VA, and then to Ft. Dix, NJ for discharge.

I was awarded the Combat Infantry Medal, Good Conduct Medal and seven Overseas Stripes.

GEORGE W. KANUSE, horn June 13, 1918. From shipyard worker Merchant Marine, to U.S. Army. Trained at Ft. McClellan, AL. Joined Co. M, 135th Inf. Reg., 34th Div. in Italy.

George W. Kanuse

Out in 1945. Wife Rita; three children, seven grandchildren.

SAM C. KARAM, born Oct. 7, 1914, San Antonio, TX. Moved to Washington, PA at age three and remained there until 1933 when we moved to Columbus, OH.

Enlisted U.S. Army, Jan. 16, 1942. Basic Training at Camp Walters, TX. Sent overseas July, 1942 and later in September assigned to 34th Inf. Div. in Ireland, specifically the 133rd Inf. Reg., 1st Bn., "B" Co.

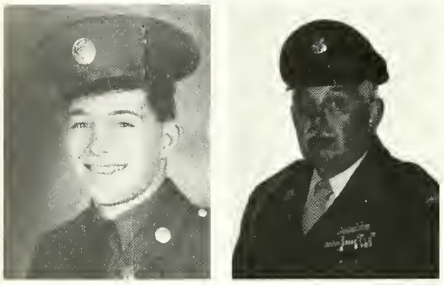
Served in all major battles and invasions. Awarded Purple Heart with four Clusters, and various other awards and commendations.

Married Jan. 17, 1945. Discharged June 26, 1945.

Sam C. Karam

Two daughters, one son and four grandchildren. Present occupation - Retired Chef in Hollywood Hills, FL.

EDWARD E. KELLEY, born Waterloo, IA, June 23, 1922. Joined the Iowa National Guard 1939, Co. "D", 133rd Inf., Waterloo, IA. Was with this unit throughout WWII in North Ireland, North Africa and Italy. Served with the U.S. Air Force during the Berlin Air Lift and the Korean War. Wife Dorothy Mae, three sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren.



Edward E. Kelley

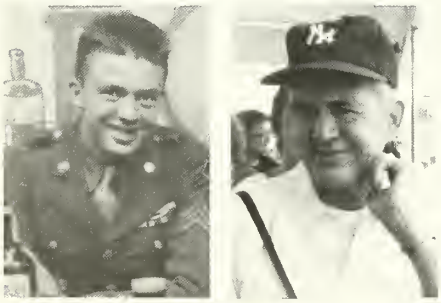
Past Commander Chicago American Legion Post 1183.

Past President 34th Inf. Div. Assoc., Chicago, IL.

JOHN J. KELLY, born in Brooklyn, NY, Aug. 29, 1923, joined the Army Dec. 21, 1942. Was sent to Ft. Dix, NJ then to Camp Croft, SC for infantry training. I went to North Africa on June 1, 1943. Proudly joined C Co. 135th Inf. Reg. of the 34th Div.

I was a Rifleman, Machine Gunner and Mortar man. I received the Silver and Bronze Stars, was wounded in Italy July 1, 1944. Highest Rank attained Sergeant discharged from Halloran Hospital S.I. NY Nov. 30, 1945.

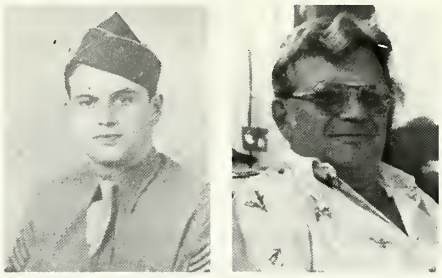
I am married and have four children and now have four grandchildren. I retired from the Chase Manhattan Bank, after 30 years of service and am presently employed in a machine shop named Volckening Inc. located in Brooklyn, NY.



John J. Kelly

I learned to drive (a Jeep) on the Anzio Beachhead. I got frozen feet at (Cassino) our Regiment the 135th was attached to the U.S. 1st Armd. Div. and took Rome, Italy the first day, June 4, 1944. I am very proud to have served in the 34th Inf. Div.

CLAUDE W. KENNEDY, born at Clinton, MN, Oct. 7, 1921. Inducted into 34th Div. from National Guard (Ortonville, MN) with older brothers, Orville and Warren, in February 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA, and participated in maneuvers as part of Co. L, 135th Inf. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ, and then to Ireland in April 1942 for approximately seven months training. Shipped, with 3rd Bn. to North Africa where American units saw first WWII action in battles against Rommel. Reassigned to 197th General Hospital Unit and served in France and Belgium. Discharged in October 1945 at Camp Custer, MI.



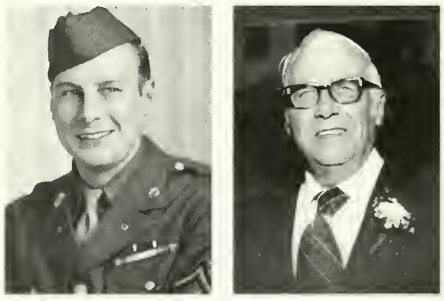
Claude W. Kennedy

Married Ivy Kehrberg Kennedy on July 11, 1941, and retired from Federal Government Civil Service (Management Analyst) in 1976. Have 5 daughters and 11 grandchildren. Presently living with wife in Largo, FL.

ANDREW N. KERTELS, was born in Farley, IA on July 27, 1919. Entered the Army Nov. 10, 1941 from Ft. Des Moines, IA, in the 125th Field Atry. 34th Inf. Btry. A.

Stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC until February 6, then at Ft. Dix, NJ until they set sail for Belfast Ireland aboard the Acquitania on Apr. 30, 1942; then to England.

Participated in the Invasion of Africa, France, Italy as a heavy machine gunner 605 at Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Tunisian Campaign. Wounded in action in Italy December 1943.



Andrew N. Kertels

Awarded three Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Ribbon, five Overseas Bars. Having spent 31 months overseas, returned to U.S.A. in December 1944. Discharged from service as PFC on Sept. 15, 1945.

Married Rita H. Baldwin on Nov. 22, 1945 in Somerville, MA. Have two daughters, three sons and nine grandchildren. Owned and operated Kertel Bros. Well Drilling Pump and Supply. Now retired.

MANSEL KIRK, Finger, TN, born Apr. 17, 1924. Join Army July 1943. Took basic Ft. Rilley went to Ft. Meade, MD., left for overseas on USS Gen. Butler Mar. 23, 1944. Arrived North Africa Mar. 3, went to Italy March 14, joined Co. G 168th 34th Div. March 15. Went to Anzio 21. Pulled a lot of combat patrol at Anzio, pushed off for Rome May 23, arrived in Rome June 5. After a lot of hard fighting near Lanuivo, made Squad leader.

Mansel Kirk

Arrived at Arno River near Pisa. Took a month rest. Went to Florence September 7, we pushed off for Gothlis line and Po Valley, Germans stopped us late October. We dug in for winter 12 miles from Po Valley. It was cold and snowy that winter. April 16, we pushed off for Po Valley, was in Bellea, when war ended May 2, 1945 made Platoon Seargeant. Have four Battle Stars, Brown Star, four other medals. I'm married to Faye Kirk, we have one son, one granddaughter. I run a service station in Finger, TN 38334.

EDWIN F. KLAWITTER, born Apr. 2, 1919 Hutchinson, MN. Joined Minnesota National Guard Nov. 29, 1940. "B" Co. 135th Inf. 34th Div. Light Machine Gun Section. Went to Camp Claiborne, LA Feb. 25, 1941. Ft. Dix December 1941. To North Ireland January 1942 with the first American Contingent. Arrived No. Africa January 1943. Went into Combat April 1943. Went all through the African Campaign as a Light Machine Gun Squad Leader. Main Battles - Sabetla, Fondouk, Hill 609 etc. My first Ammo Carrier, Robert Booker received Medal of Honor for action at Fondouk.

Edwin F. Klawitter

Landed at Salerno Italy September 1943. Fought a running battle all the way to St. Marria Olivetto where I was blown off a mountainside by Artillery. Evacuated to Field Hospital with a broken up back. Back to U.S. on U.S. Hospital Ship Algonquin. Two years, three months overseas. Thayer General Hospital and Schick General Hospital.

Discharged Sept. 5, 1945. Am now retired. Wife Dorothy, one son, one daughter and three granddaughters.

CHARLES H. KLINGER, JR., enlisted in the National Guard at Ft. Dodge, IA on Dec. 7, 1940 in Co. "G" 133rd Reg. 34th Div. Was federalized on Feb. 10, 1941. Went to Camp Claiborne, LA in February 1941. Left Claiborne and arrived at Ft. Dix, NJ. Went overseas in February 1942, landing in North Ireland and spent time in the British Isles. Then to North Africa, landing at Algiers. Then to Italy and went into combat at Anzio.

Was taken a prisoner of war outside Bologna, Italy, was wounded when captured and spent time in German hospital in Northern Italy, then in Austria and when well went to a prisoner of war camp north of Berlin, Stalag XVIII. Was liberated May 2, 1945. Returned home and received Honorable Discharge at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. Reached the rank of Platoon Sergeant - T/Sergeant.

Married Jan. 5, 1946. Raised three boys, two of which are in the Air Force, one a Major and the other a M/Sergeant. My youngest, was in the Air Force for ten years, now has a Masters Degree and works in the accounting department of a college in Colorado. In 1955 I had a tractor accident which left me paralyzed from the waist down.

Outside of the usual medals of theater I have Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart with Cluster. I'm now receiving Social Security and am now bedfast with my wife giving me excellent T.L.C.

ROBERT A. KNIE, born Chicago, IL June 27, 1919. Was drafted on Mar. 17, 1941 and sent to Camp Wolters, TX. From Camp Wolters, was sent to Ft. Benning, GA and then joined the 135th Inf. Cannon Co. in North Africa as company agent when the unit was formed.

Robert A. Knie

Has Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. Has four other ribbons and five major Battle Stars. Served 27 months overseas. Discharged in September 1945. Married 42 years. Wife Lillian, two daughters and two grandsons. Retired carpenter. Still lives in Chicago.

ELVIN J. KOBILAN, born Feb. 8, 1924, Calhan, CO. Drafted Apr. 17, 1944. Discharged Nov. 6, 1945. Trained at Camp Roberts, 105 Howitzer. Landed Italy Octoher 25, Replacement Co. A 135th Inf. at Monticatini. My weapon reduced Cannon to B.A.R. Moved from one area front line to others.

Received Bronze Star, cited for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct for blowing up German outpost.

Fought mud and snow and enemy from Monticatini to North of Po River. End of War transferred to 88th Div. Army of Occupation. Hauled freight Udine to Trieste.

Elvin J. Kobilan

Have wonderful family, Juli Dzuris. Two sons, Darrell and Errol; grandson and three granddaughters. Sons raced open wheel sprint cars and Errol won 1st six times, including Pikes Peak 1974 and 1978.

Twenty-six years, Al Kobilan and Sons Sprinkling Service with Juli as bookkeeper. Ten years growing 200 acres of Alfalfa in 560 acre pasture. I love my family and my country.

OMER JOHN KOELKER, was horn Feb. 12, 1916 at Petersburg, IA. Selected for the National Guard Ft. Des Moines, IA on Apr. 18, 1941. Sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO, then selected for Co. 3, 133rd Inf. Then sent to Camp Claihorne, LA. Got my hasic training there and was then shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ. Broke my arm and held over for a month and then shipped to Northern Ireland and got transferred into 109th Co. C Combat Engineers. Then took Commando training for two months.

Amer John Koelker

Left Ireland and got ready for the Invasion in Africa on Nov. 8, 1941. Was with the first troops of 168th Inf. to land on shore in Africa, and fought with Gen. Patton in battle with Rommel in African Desert. Shipped to Salerno, Italy and all the way to the tip of the Alps. Sent home on rotation furlough. Was home when War ended. Discharged at Jefferson Barracks, MO. on May 15, 1945. Was wounded in action in the vicinity of Castellina, Italy on July 12, 1944. Was overseas three years and 13 days.

Following discharge worked at All Steel Welding Company as foreman for seven years and 25 years at Duhuque Packing Company as Lead Man. Presently retired. Married in 1948. Have three sons and two grandchildren.

ORVILLE J. KRUKOW, born Milford, IA, Dec. 25, 1918. Enlisted April 1941 at Des Moines, IA. Basic at Camp Claiborne, LA. Went to Ft. Dix, NJ, Camp Edwards, MA, Ireland, North Africa, and Italy. A truck driver for Co. "A" - 109th Engineers attached to 135th Inf. Bn. Returned to U.S. March 1945.

Discharged from Co. "A" 757th M.P. Bn. Jefferson Barracks, MO July 1945. Awarded four Bronze Stars for Tunisian, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and Northern Appennines Battles, three other ribbons, five Overseas Bars. Almost 35 months overseas.

Orville J. Krukow

Died Jan. 26, 1985 survived by wife, Edna. Two sons, two daughters, six grandchildren. Preceeded by one son (in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam) Jan. 23, 1969.

His love of horses developed from a hobby into a husiness.

CHARLES E. KUHN, SR., horn Nov. 1, 1919 near Gettysburg, PA. Joined RA USA Army on Aug. 21, 1940, 21st Eng. Co. A Landley Field, VA. Shipped to overseas to Greenland and Iceland. ____ 1 on June 19, 1941. Shipped back to USA on June 20, 1942, outfit hroke up. Shipped to Ft. Dix in June 1942.

Shipped out from Ft. Dix to overseas to England arriving in 1942. Regrouped with 34th Red Bull Div. Shipped out of England and got in the 34th 109th B Co. Comhat Engineers attached to 135th Div. with 34th together landed in Africa. Fought through Africa and 2nd Corps and Gen. Patton getting Rommel out of Africa. Shipped out of Africa to Italy 34th fourth with ___ Gen. Mark Clark all the way up to Southern France. When war was over shipped back to good old USA in July. Was honorably discharged July 30, 1945 from the Army at Indiantown Gap, Harrisburg, PA. I was in the Army in the USA for 1 year, 1 month, 22 days and in foreign service 3 years, 9 months, 5 days.

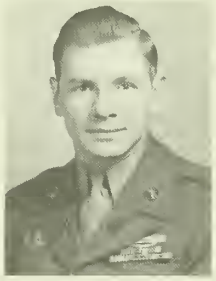
Charles E. Kuhn, Sr.

Got married on Feb. 23, 1946. We had eight daughters and a son. Son, Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., now in Navy.

Got a job with Aspluedh Tree Expert Co. Made foreman; worked from 1945 to 1981 when I retired. Worked for Security Linton Co. for eight years. Now I don't work anywhere. We have 12 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

I am proud to say I served in the 34th Red Bull Div., the best outift over there. The Jerries did not like this outfit. Thanks to everyone that served.

ALEX D. LAMBROS, born Ashtabula, OH on Jan. 7, 1925. Joined 133rd Inf. Reg. Co. "M" in January 1944. Also served with Co. "L" 133rd Inf. Reg. Returned to the States with the Division in October 1945. Attended West Virginia University. Also served with the 37th Div. Ohio National Guard. Attained the rank of Master Sergeant.



Alex D. Lambros

Served with the Ashtabula Police Department and retired after 33-1/2 years of service with the rank of Captain in charge of the Detective Bureau. Presently employed as a Common Pleas Court Bailiff in Ashtabula County.

Wife Margaret; two children and five grandchildren.

Brother to Maj. Gen. C.D. Lambros and brother to U.S. Federal Judge Thomas Lambros.

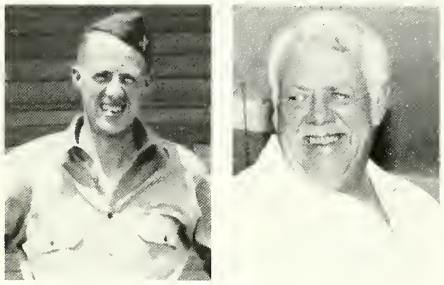
LELAND R. LARSON, born Webster, SD Mar. 11, 1910. Joined the Army as a Chaplain in October 1941. Assigned to 135th Inf. Reg. Nov. 15, 1941. Was under the tutelage of Chaplain Benson who was soon assigned elsewhere. Was with the 3rd Bn. of the 135th Reg. when we were assigned to protect the harbor at Texas City, TX right after Pearl Harbor. Soon sent to Ft. Dix, NJ from where we embarked in April 1942 for North Ireland. We were pursued by Nazi subs into Halifax Harbor from whence we set sail later that night and on to Port Rush. No. Ireland (after another attack by Nazi subs). Sailed from there to Oran, No. Africa in December 1942 and landed there after one ship was sunk hefore us. We encamped near Lion Mt. where we

were confined to Camp by the assassination of Admiral Darlin. Thence to Tunisia in February 1943 where we engaged the enemy at Fondouk Pass and lost quite a few men and officers. Soon the Battle for Tunisia was in full swing which resulted in the defeat of Marshal Rommel and his Africa Korps. Saw the whole Africa Korps march into the prison camp at Ferryville, Tunisia. Then after a rest and recruitment of quite a few men, we were on our way to Salerno, Italy. We marched all the way to Benevento where we again engaged to the enemy. Unfortunately at Montecassino I was injured and taken back to the States on board the USS Refuge landing in Charleston, SC. After being adjudged "Temporary Duty Only" I was assigned to Gen. Somervell's group to welcome back the returning soldiers. This was done in by the Battle of the Bulge and I was assigned to Camp Maxey, TX to train recruitments. Soon I was able to retire from the active service through a "point system". I was given the rank of Major which I still hold.

LENNARD LARSON, born Brecke, Sweden Jan. 10, 1919. Joined National Guard 151st Field Atry. Medical Detachment as a buck private December 1938 Minneapolis, MN.

Spent time Camp Claiborne, LA and on to Ft. Dix, NJ as PFC.

Shipped out to Northern Ireland and Scotland and participated in the invasion of Algiers North Africa with the 175th Bn. Medics.



Lennard Larson

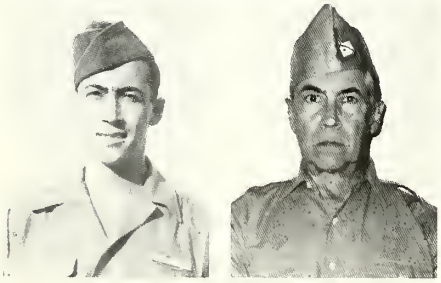
Wounded near Kassarine Pass attempting to evacuate casualties across open field under intense artillery and mortar fire, resulting in the loss of one eye due to head wounds and arm and leg wounds.

Bronze Star for heroic action and Purple Heart Medals with four other ribbons and five Battle Stars with a total of 24 months overseas.

Received medical discharge 1943.

Wife, Thelma, two sons, two daughters, and five grandchildren. Now active as a servant of the Lord.

REXFORD LAUDENBERGER, born Pittsburgh, PA. Ft. Meade, MD for induction Oct. 27, 1941. Camp Wheeler, GA for 13 weeks in the 10th Trn. Bn. North to Ft. Dix, NJ embarkation center. Joined 1st Bn. Hqs. Co. 168th Inf. Reg. 34th Div. up from Camp Claiborne, LA maneuvers. Placed in Battalion S-2 Section. First complete Division of A.E.F. to go overseas April 1942. Went to flame thrower school but never used the 45 lb. hot footer in combat. Stayed behind at Monte Cassino



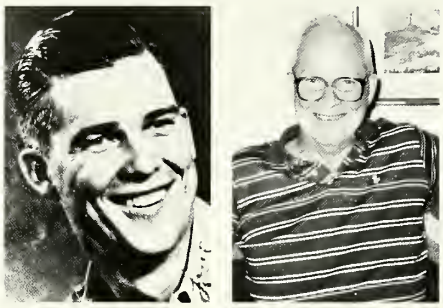
Rexford Laudenberger

when outfit was relieved by 4th Indian Div. Witnessed first hand the bombing of the Abbey by B-17s on Feb. 15, 1944 at 9:30 AM. Not all bombs found the target. Ireland, Scotland, Africa and Italy - three years. Discharged at Indiantown Gap 1945.

Retired from corrugated box company after 30 years. Playing golf and growing old at present time.

WESLEY LEE, born July 3, 1920. Left from the National Guard June 26, 1940, Camp Claiborne, LA, entering active duty.

Battles and campaigns: Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North (service Feb. 10, 1941), Appennines Lines and Po Valley. April 30, 1942 - E.T.O., Dec. 23, 1942 - N.A.T.O, Sept. 17, 1943 - M.T.O., May 21, 1945 - U.S.



Wesley Lee

Wes had medals from European-African-Middle Eastern Service: American Defense Service Medal, six Overseas Service Bars. No time lost under AW107. Lapel Button issued, four Discharge Emblems issued. Good Conduct Medal GO 7, H2, 135th Inf. 43.

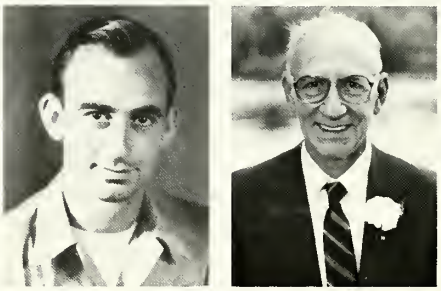
Discharged June 17, 1945. Following discharge worked at Franklin Creamery for 18 years. Married in 1947; has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Wesley passed away June 24, 1986.

PAUL A. LEEPER - born Omaha, NE Jan. 20, 1922.

Joined National Guard, 168th Inf. Band in 1938. Played baritone. Left Ft. Dix for N. Ireland in February 1942. Trained for invasion in Ireland and Scotland. Invaded Algiers, in N. Africa, November 1943.

Captured by the Germans at Fiad Pass, Feb. 17, 1943 along with several thousand others, trying to escape Rommel's last attack in Africa. Served as C.P. guards before capture.



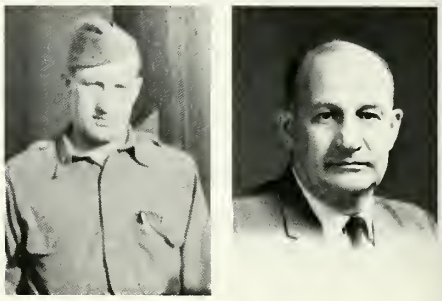
Paul A. Leeper

Flown by Germans to Sicily to prison camp, by train to camp near Naples, by train, thru Brenner Pass, to camp in Austria, by train to camp east of Berlin. When the Russians got too close, moved on foot, west to another camp. When the Russians liberated this camp, walked west with three paratroopers to American lines. Sailed from Brest, France to U.S. after 39 months overseas, 27 as a P.O.W.

Was discharged as Sergeant at Ft. Sam - Houston, TX, in Sept. 22, 1945.

Now retired, living in Florida since 1958 with wife, Betty. Four children, three in Florida, one in Omaha. Enjoying grandchildren and life in general.

JOHN J. LEPORE, born May 31, 1913, Marlboro, MA. Graduated Georgetown Medical School 1937 as M.D. and 1st Lieutenant Army Med. Reserve Corps. To active duty February 1941 with 26th Inf. Div. Transferred to 34th Inf. Div., 109th Medical Bn. February 1942 and overseas to North Ireland. Clearing Co. operated a Station Hospital in Kilrea until October 1942 when division sent to Scotland for amphibious training in preparation for invasion of Algiers. Promoted to Captain. On the invasion and throughout the entire North African and south Italian campaigns, the unit operated as a M.A.S.H. hospital type rendering surgical care to battle casualties. Returned to U.S. February 1944 and assigned to Cushing Army Hospital Surgical Service until March 1946 when reverted to inactive status as Major, M.C. Received distinguished service award by King of England July 1943 for care of British casualties.



John J. Lepore

Bronze Star U.S. Army. Retired from surgical practice 1976. Wife deceased 1984. Two children, daughter Cheryl, and son Timothy, surgeon on Nantucket Island, MA. Have six grandchildren.

EUGENE H. LEWIS, born Remington IN, Mar. 26, 1920. Joined Service Oct. 24, 1941, went to Camp Wheeler, GA December 1941. Joined 168th at Ft. Dix, C. H 168th went to Ireland and Scotland for training. Invaded Africa at Algiers. Invaded Italy at Salerno. Wounded South of Rome, came back to U.S. on hospital ship, Thistle. Discharged from hospital and Service Jan. 13, 1945.

Eugene H. Lewis

Has Silver Star and Bronze Star, Purple Heart and two Clusters. All other ribbons that 168th were awarded. Wife, Laverne, three daughters and three grandchildren. Still live in Remington, IN, owner of Remington Auto Parts since 1946.

ELMER L. LINDE, was born July 11, 1920 in Montevideo, MN where he attended local schools. In 1941 he joined the National Guard and was sent to Camp Claibourne, LA for maneuvers. While there he began writing newspaper articles under the pen name "Weary Wiffle", which were published in the local papers back home. They became very popular based on the number of appreciative letters he received. He was then sent to Ft. Dix, NJ where he served as Private First Class with the 34th Inf. Div. and where he embarked for the African, Middle Eastern Theater in April, 1942.

Elmer L. Linde

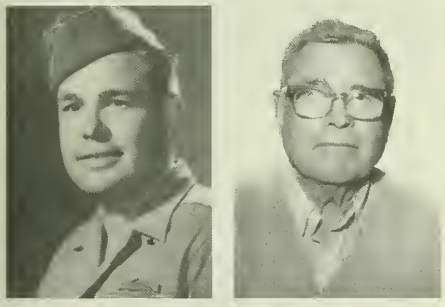
Wounded in action in 1943 at Tunisia, North Africa he received the Silver Star and Purple Heart for Gallantry in Action. He spent almost ten months in North Africa recovering before returning to active duty.

He was discharged in Wisconsin on Aug. 12, 1945. But chose to return to New Jersey where he had met Mary Maloney, before going overseas. He married her on Nov. 24, 1945.

He worked as a union carpenter and was secretary of the union, until 1963, when he was forced into early retirement due to a long term illness. Although not able to work he was very active with many service organizations, including the V.F.W. and the D.A.V., and spent a good deal of his time helping the patients in the Old Soldiers Home in Menlo Park, NJ.

Elmer had two sons and two daughters and two grandchildren. He passed away on Dec. 12, 1987 - a soldier to the end.

ELLSWORTH L. LINDSLEY, born July 22, 1919 in Fredrick, WI. Entered the Army from California April 1944. Trained at Camp Roberts, CA as a rifleman. Several of us who had trained together arrived in Montecatini, Italy in October 1944. I joined the 34th Div. as a replacement to Co. A 135th Inf., and by night time we were in foxholes under fire. Stayed with the Division on the combat winter line. Was in Bologna, Italy by the end of the war.



Ellsworth L. Lindsley

We arrived in San Remo, Italy during the early part of summer. By early July 1944 I found out I didn't have enough combat points to go home with the 34th Div. Several of us were transferred to the 88th Div. in Udine, Italy near the Yugoslavic Border. I became the Platoon Sergeant of the Intelligence Platoon. Discharged July 5, 1946 as Tec/Sergeant.

Married to Thelma Harris on July 10, 1944. We have three sons, Lynn, Dean and Paul. Retired as a Construction Carpenter in 1984.

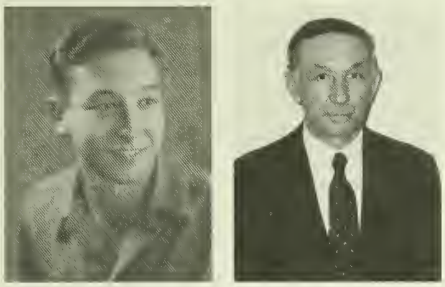
LYLE E. LINEBARGER, born St. James, in Greene Co. TN on Mar. 29, 1924. Inducted into Army at Ft. Oglethorpe, GA in July 1943. Trained at Ft. Riley, KS and F. Meade, MD. Overseas to Naples, Italy by way of Casablanca, Oran, North Africa. February 1944 assigned to 34th Div. at Benevento; served as Rifleman with Co. C 168th Inf. from Anzio to near Arno River.

Two Battle Stars, Purple Heart for wounds in July 1944. Hospital until November 1944. Reclassified to Q.M. Laundry Co., early 1945. Returned to States January 1946. Discharged Ft. Knox, KY.

Lyle E. Linebarger

Retired letter carrier; live with wife on small farm in Greene Co., TN part of which has been in our family for over four generations. We have one son and one granddaughter.

JOHN E. LITTLE, born Mt. Olive, AL, Oct. 27, 1924. Entered service May 1943. Trained at Camp Croft, SC. Left for overseas October 1943, went to Casablanca No. Africa, on to Italy, joined 34th Div., 135th Inf., Co. C at the last crossing of Valterno River. Company wireman from Cassino to Bologna. Laid wire one night at Anzio from C.P. to Out Post, on way back I ran wire through hand only to find Germans had already tapped wire.



John E. Little

Entered Service Co. 135th Inf. after Bologna until returning home December 1945. Received Bronze Star, four major Battle Stars and five other ribbons. Live in Mt. Olive, AL, P.O. Box 44 with wife Nancy Carroll, have two children and four grandchildren - retired from E.I. DuPont.

RALPH H. LONEY, born Apr. 6, 1922, at Niobrara, NE. Moved to Madison, MN in the fall of 1922. Joined Co. I, 135th Inf., 34th Div., Minnesota National Guard, November 1937. Entered federal service with this unit on Feb. 10, 1941. Served with this unit during training at Camp Claiborne, LA (1941) and North Ireland (1942); The Invasion of North Africa at Algiers (November 1942), The North African Campaign (1943); and the Naples-Foggia Campaign in Italy (1943). Hospitalized in North Africa from November 1943 to February 1944.

Ralph H. Loney

Assigned to Allied Force Headquarters, serving with that unit in North Africa and Italy until September 1945 when he returned to the United States and was discharged.

Worked as a Veterans Administration Contact Representative until October 1949 when he returned to active duty in the Regular Army. Received a direct appointment as a commissioned officer in October 1950. Served in Alaska with the 4th Inf.; at Camp Polk, LA, with the 147th Inf., 37th Div.; in Korea with the 88th Inf. Btry. (Heavy Mortar); at Ft. Benning, GA, with the 3rd Inf. Div., and the U.S. Army Human Research Unit; in Germany with the 4th Armd. Div.; and in Detroit, MI as an Advisor with the U.S. Army Reserve General Officer Command.

Retired from the Army Apr. 1, 1966. Employed by the Department of Defense in a civilian capacity with U.S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA from February 1967 to January 1986. Now retired.

Married in 1945, has four sons, one daughter and nine grandchildren.

DAVID D. LOWRY, born in Salisbury, PA on Aug. 30, 1920. Went into the Service in June 1942, Army Infantry, Ft. Meade, MD. Met the 34th Inf. Div. in North Ireland, Africa, Oran, 133rd 3 Bn. Italy. Five major Battle Stars. Discharged in 1945 at Indiantown Gap, PA. Thirty-six months overseas.

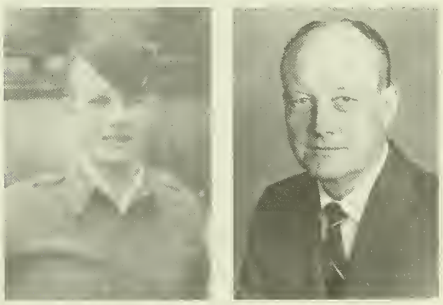
Wife Alta; one daughter.

David D. Lowry

We have clippings from papers of War Correspondents that has articles about the 34th Div. saying they are "Tired Cows"—still snorting for action and states that the 34th Div. won over 15,000 Purple Hearts, nine Congressional Medals of Honor and 98 Distinguished Service Crosses."

CARL McHENRY LUND, born Aug. 11, 1921, at Exeland, WI. Joined Co. E 134th Inf., 35th Div. (Nebraska National Guard) as unit mobilized in December, 1940. Made Louisiana Maneuvers in 1941. Assigned duty on west coast when war was declared. Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Infantry at Ft. Benning, GA in November, 1941. Assigned Anti-Tank Co. 100th Div., Ft. Jackson, SC.

Joined Mine Platoon 133rd Inf. at Cisterna, Italy in summer of 1944 as 2nd Lieutenant. Fought in the Arno River, Gothic Line and Po Valley Campaigns. Deactivated A.T. as Company Commander along with the rest of the Division at Patrick Henry, VA, in November 1945. Was given credit for 22 months overseas and 243 combat days.



Carl McHenry Lund

Following discharge, earned BS and MS in Agricultural Engineering at Clemson University. Worked four years in research, 16 years in Product Planning and ten years in Sales before taking early retirement to come back to South Carolina in 1977. Remained active in either National Guard or Reserve until 1963.

Married Mary Caughman in 1943 and we have one son and two grandchildren, and now reside on a farm near Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

Awarded Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Croix De Guerre with Palm.

JAMES A. LUTTRELL, born Knoxville, TN, Nov. 25, 1918. Commissioned RA 2nd Lieutenant Field Arty., June 1940 and joined 3rd Inf. Div. Ft. Lewis, WA. Assigned newly organized Cannon Co., 15th Inf. Reg. Made landing in North Africa Nov. 8, 1942, in support of 15th Inf. in French Morocco. January 1943 transferred to 34th Div. and organized first Cannon Co., 168th Inf. Supported 168th Inf. throughout remainder of African Campaign. Attached to 45th Div. as amphibious operation adviser for invasion of Sicily. After Sicilian campaign, rejoined 168th Inf. and made invasion of Italy at Salerno. After 34th Div. was relieved at Cassino, remained to support 1st Free French Corps in Cassino area. Rejoined 34th Div. and made landing at Anzio. Continued to command Cannon Co., 168th, until October 1944, then assigned as Regimental Operations Officer. Commanded Battalion Task Force that captured and secured bridge over Tara River, cutting off escape route of 60,000 Germans and resulted in capture of German 34th Div. by the American 34th Div. Remained with 168th until after war was over.

Has the D.S.C., two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars with V, two Purple Hearts, French Croix de Guerre with Palm, nine major Battle Stars and according to Army AG, most combat days (630) of any officer in WWII. Retired on physical disability August 1963 with Rank of Colonel. Wife Esther, and one daughter. Lives part time in Daytona Beach, FL and Petersburg, VA. *(See photo on page 80)*

JOHN DEXTER LYON, MD, professional degrees include: B.S. 1937; M.B. 1939; M.D. 1940, all from the University of Minneapolis. Eighteen month internship at Minneapolis General Hospital. Entered Minnesota National Guard Dec. 18, 1940 as Captain, appointed to Medical Corps U.S. Army Feb. 10, 1941 as a Captain. On this date I left for Camp Claiborne, LA. Duties included care of the sick and injured of the 175th Bn. personnel and training the medical personnel in the art of medical care. This included the Louisiana Maneuvers in the summer of 1941.

In January of 1942, the 34th Div. moved to Ft. Dix, NJ. My duties were changed and I became Assistant Division/Artillery Surgeon. I became the surgeon for the 125th F.A. Bn.

In Ireland we started our training on our new artillery pieces the 25 pounders, at Port Rush, then moved a bit south to Newtownstuart. In December, 1942 we left for England, a little town called Macclesfield. Ultimately we sailed out of Dover for Oran, North Africa. By February 13 we were in combat at Fon Duc and continued to Hill "609." After the campaign we rested a bit on Bizerte Beach (May). On July 15, 1943 was transferred to the 151st F.A. as their surgeon. On August 10 I was tranferred to the 34th Div. Arty. Hqs. where I served as their surgeon until Apr. 24, 1945 at which time rotation occurred. After rehabilitation at Miami Beach, I was a Ward Surgeon on the Gastrointestinal Ward at Finney General Hospital in Thomasville, GA.

In September 1945 was transferred to Wakeman General Hospital at Camp Atterbury, IN to participate in the discharge process. On Feb. 10, 1946 I was Honorably Discharged after five years in the U.S. Army, 35 months overseas, accumulating three major Battle Stars. On Aug. 21, 1946 I was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve. On active duty from Sept. 5, 1946

John Dexter Lyon

to Sept. 14, 1949 at Ft. Lawton Station Hospital, Seattle, WA serving as a ward surgeon on the Gastrointestinal Ward.

On Nov. 1, 1949 was appointed to the Washington State National Guard as Lieutenant Colonel. On Sept. 11, 1950 was called to duty as Lieutenant Colonel M.C. 66th F.A. Gp. Hq. Ft. Lewis, WA. Spent three months preparing four battalions of field artillery for transfer to Korea.

From May 21, 1951, was acting Post Surgeon, Ft. Huachuca, AZ. On Apr. 3, 1952 was appointed C.O. of Station Hospital Ft. MacArthur, CA. Was C.O. Station Hospital, Camp Irwin, CA - a tank training area.

Transferred to Retired Reserve as Lieutenant Colonel M.C. June 6, 1955. I have had a private practice as a Family Practitioner since then and was elected as a Charter Fellow of the Academy of Family Practitioners in October 1973.

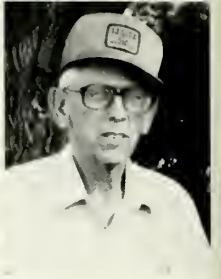
JAMES RUSSELL MABE, born July 29, 1919, Danbury, NC. Entered the Army on Nov. 28, 1941; inducted for duty at Ft. Bragg, NC as a Private. Sent to Camp Croft, SC for 12 weeks, then to Ft. Dix, NJ, then to New York Harbor; set sail for Europe. Went to Scotland, Northern Ireland, England, Africa, Naples, and Italy. I was a mine detector operator.

James Russell Mabe

In battle of Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno-North Appennines; Po Valley. Honorable discharge Aug. 29, 1945 with overseas duty — three years, nine months, Private First Class. Received decorations: EAMET Campaign Medal w/five Bronze Service Stars, American Defense Service Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal.

Following discharge farmed four years, worked at Duplane Corp. for 25 years. First wife passed away; now married to second wife three years. No children. I am now retired from work and traveling a lot.

WAYNE MAHONEY, born in Cherokee Co., IA on Mar. 18, 1918, was drafted into the Army on Apr. 10, 1941 in the 168th Inf. of the 34th Div. and later transferred into the Service Co. at Camp Claiborne, LA. He left from Ft. Dix, NJ for Northern Ireland and to Scotland for amphibious training. Was on the invasion of Algeria, Africa on Nov. 8, 1942. Was in the Battle of Hill 609 in Tunis, Africa; the Battle of Cassino in Italy; Anzio Beachhead, Bologna and then into Rome. He spent 41 months overseas. He was a Sergeant the last two years, was discharged from Ft., Sheridan, IL August 1945. He went into automotive parts business Cherokee, IA after his discharge.



Wayne Mahoney

His wife Bernice remained in Cherokee working for Agricultural Program. They have two sons who both served in the Air Force, and five grandchildren. Wayne passed away July 20, 1986 of cancer.

LARS MARTENS, born May 6, 1915 at Roland, IA. Selected for the 34th National Guard on Apr. 23, 1941. Sent to Jefferson Barricks, MO, then selected for B Btry. 185th Atry. and sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Transferred out of artillery when division dismantled and entered the 109th Combat Engineers, Co. A. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ, transported to Halifax, Nova Scotia, shipped to Ireland where we practiced with the English for eight months. Shipped to Africa and fought with Patton in the 2nd Corp. when he engaged in battle with Rommel. Shipped to Salerno, Italy, went all the way up through Italy to Southern France. Was discharged in October, 1945 in Chicago, IL. Was given credit for 43 months overseas duty and 616 combat days.

Lars Martens

Following discharge worked in construction for 24 years and 12 years as school custodian. Presently retired. Married in 1951, have two daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

RAYMOND T. MARTIN, born Sept. 22, 1913, at White Lake, SD. Enlisted Oct. 18, 1940, H&S Co. 109th Engr. Reg. (C), Active Service, Feb. 10, 1941. When the 34th Inf. Div. mobilized. Basic training Camp Claiborne, LA. Arrived at Ft. Dix, NJ Jan. 5, 1942. Promoted, Feb. 1, 1942, from Private 3rd Cl Special to Sergeant Hq. Co. 109th Engr. Bn. (C)., Assigned to the Div. Engr. Sec. Landed North Ireland, May 2, 1942. Sent to England to attend British Engineer School at Ripon England. On Jan. 2, 1943, landed at Mers El Kiber Fort of Oran, No. Africa, assigned to Recon Sec., Hq. Co. 109th Engr. Bn. (C). Landed on the Italian Shore South of Salerno, Sept. 21, 1943.

Raymond T. Martin

Captured Jan. 24, 1944 at Cassino, Italy. Interned at Stalag 3-B Furstenburg/Oder, Germany. Liberated Apr. 21, 1945, by the Russian Army, at Stalag 3-A Luckenwald Germany. Returned to American Military control, May 5, 1945, Hildershim, Germany. Discharged Sept. 21, 1945, Camp McCoy, WI. Rank S/Sergeant E.T.O. Ribbon w/four Bronze Stars, American Defense, Good Conduct.

Married 1945, wife died 1983, no children. Retired September 1978, as a Master-Craftsmen, Display-Decorator, Local 831 Los Angeles, CA. Now reside in Morgan Hill, CA.

JOSEPH H. MATTES, born July 15, 1915, in Iowa City, IA. Went in to Federal Service with the National Guard, 34th Inf. Div., G. Co., 136th Medical Regiment, Feb. 10, 1941, Camp Claiborne, LA. Next to Ft. Dix. On to North Ireland for training, for landing at Algiers, North Africa. Went through Tunisian Campaign, landed in Salerno, Italy. Went through Italy to Appennines. Sent home for R&R in February, 1945. Reported back to Jefferson Barracks May 12, for discharge on points May 15. Decorations he received are four Battle Stars, Division Citation, and Good Conduct Medal. Has six Overseas Bars.

Now living in Amana, IA. Worked for Amana Refrigeration, Inc., for 32 years. Retired in 1977. Now owns and operates Sandstone Winery, Inc. Married in 1946, has a son and daughter and two grandchildren.

CHARLES W. MAUERHAN, born Baltimore, MD on Mar. 6, 1909. Trained at Ft. McClellan, AL and was in Africa-Italy, 5th Army Inf. Went on many patrols and due to age (34), was called "Pop."

Charles W. Mauerhan

Was in Anzio before going to Rome. Bronze Star, Infantry Combat Badge Citation and other Medals.

Wife Helen; son, two daughters and granddaughter.

Belong to V.F.W.; was commander three times and D.A.V. Life Member in both.

Hello to all comrades in all services.

THOMAS P. McARTHUR, 39928580, was born in St. George, UT on Feb. 28, 1925. Drafted Apr. 15, 1944. Trained at Camp Roberts, CA. Landed in Italy last of October and taken as replacement in Co. A, 135th Inf. at Monticatini first week of November. B.A.R. man. Fought in mud and snow of Appennine Mtns. Saw several buddies killed and wounded. Had many close calls. Was hit by spent piece of shrapnel and bruised. German "Tater Smasher" (grenade) landed at feet and didn't go off. Spent most of time in front without bath for up to five weeks at a time. Got lice.

Thomas P. McArthur

Final push in April was from Bologna to Biella on Swiss border. Got boils and infection and fever, so rode to hospital in Milan all night because every bridge was blown up. Two companions, one without a nose or eye and the other had kneecap shot off. Transferred into 88th Div. as Army of Occupation near Trieste till June 1946. Discharged July 3, 1946. Received Bronze Star, several ribbons and Battle Stars, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Rifleman Badge.

My wife is Fae Dalton and we have eight children, 29 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Established McArthur Jewelers in 1950 in St. George. Am a Watchmaker and Goldsmith. Love hiking and hunting. (Got my buck every year since 1941 except 1944-45 while in Italy.) Love youth, Scouting, etc. and spent time teaching Patriotism and Citizenship. Rotarian since 1955.

GAYLORD W. McCURDY, born June 3, 1922 at Clark, SD. Joined L Co., 133rd Inf., 34th Div. National Guard in Sioux City, IA from home town of Pierson, IA. Trained at Camp Claiborne, LA, and along with a lot of other guys, lost 12 days AW 107 due to "Over the hill in October". Went to Ireland with L Co. Volunteered and was kicked out of the 1st Ranger Bn. after being late for reville after an overnite pass; it may have saved my life. Volunteered and went into N. Africa Nov. 8, 1942 with the first wave attached to No. 6 British Commando Unit. After being wounded, returned to U.S. and married my sweetheart Marvel, (Same Gal as in newspaper photo) on St. Pats Day Mar. 17, 1944. Went to Europe as a volunteer, wounded in Germany, received Silver Star, and was discharged Sept. 22, 1945.

Gaylord W. McCurdy

Went to electronics school under the GI Bill. Worked as a photographer, draftsman, spray painter, raised chinchillas, owned a pool hall in Iowa, ran a summer resort in Minnesota, instrument technician in Utah, engineer in Canada, and retired 1983, as a control engineer in Denver, Co. Raised two daughters Patti and Micki and live in Golden, CO with wife Marvel of 44 years. Its nice to be here.

ORVILLE McDONALD, born July 27, 1922 at Houston, TX. Graduate, Abilene Christian University and graduate work at Southern Methodist University at Dallas and Washington University in St. Louis. Member - Public Relations Society of America; American Bar Association. Practicing attorney and Chairman of International Public Relations firm, ORVILLE McDONALD ASSOCIATES, with Dallas Hq.

Orville McDonald

Basic Training Ft. McClellan, AL (March to July, 1943) sailed to North Africa on Aug. 21, 1943. Landed at Oran; took train to Bizerte and served on courts martial staff in Tunis (PBS) until late November, 1943.

Joined Hq. Co., 3rd Bn. 168th Inf. In March, 1944 moved up to S-1 Section 168th Hq. In August 1944 moved to G-3 Section 34th Div. Hq.

In March 1945, awarded Commission and joined B Co., 2nd Bn., 168th for the Po Valley breakout. In May 1945 moved to Bn. Hq. 1st Bn., 168th. In September transferred over to 88th Div. and came back to States in December, 1945.

JOSEPH N. McFARLAND, born Sept. 13, 1919, enlisted as a private in the 168th Inf., 1st Bn. Hqs. January, 1941. Trained at Camp Claiborne, LA, Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man, and landed Algiers, N. Africa D Day, 1942 and beachhead Salerno, Italy September, 1943. Moved northward by fording Volturno and Rapido Rivers several times. Night before attack on Cassino probed with bayonets for mines in front of troops. March, 1944 landed Anzio Beachhead, layed concertina, and dug in until May, 1944. Other duties as Platoon Sergeant: Observation Post in front of troops at night for advance warning of enemy attack and re-supplying ammunition to troops via vehicles, back pack, and pack mules — took two or three hours, up the mountain, about ten minutes down! Several members of my platoon and I wounded or suffered concussions but not one man killed in action under my command.

Joseph N. McFarland

Awards: July, 1944, Montescudajo, Italy commendation for outstanding performance of duty from Gen. Bolte, November 1944 Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, ETO Medal, four Bronze Stars, Good Conduct and Victory Medals.

Returned Des Moines Dec. 24, 1944. Honorably discharged Tech. Sergeant August, 1945 - four years, seven months, seven days — 32 months overseas. Married 1949, one daughter, one son, five grandchildren. Graduated University of Iowa, 1952. Retired 1984 Manager, Plumb Supply Co. Re-visited Italy 1982 and 1988 "34th Div. Italy Revisited Tour".

WILBUR E. McMURTRY, born Jan. 12, 1918, Drumright, OK. ROTC commission 1939. Graduated Univiersity of Oklahoma June 1941, B.S. Geological Engineering, B.S. Petroleum Engineering. Inducted from Wichita, KS, September 20, reported 34th Inf. Div., 125th F.A. Bn., Oct. 1, 1941. Overseas with 125th F.A. Bn., May 1942 to August 1945; Ireland, North Africa, Italy, five Bronze Campaign Stars. 51 months of service and 39 months overseas. Terminal Leave Promotion, Major, Nov. 22, 1946. 0-376836. Hospitalized, Salerno, Italy, night reconnaissance, jeep turned over in road bomb hole, driving blackout.

Postwar: Geologist for Magnolia, Phillips and Stanolind Oil Company, February 1946 to June 1954. Consultant, 1954 to present. Admitted to charter membership, American Institute of Professional Geologists, 1964; National Secretary, 1970; elected Honorary Life Member Oklahoma City Geologist Society, 1981. Associate and Member American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 1941. Married Eloise Morris, 1946. Daughter, Carolyn McMurtry Henry (Mrs. Earl James). *(See photo on page 80)*

JOHN V. MELUCCI, was born July 14 1915 in Lawrence, MA. Left there for Patterson, NJ in 1921. Joined the Army Mar. 6, 1941. Attached to the 34th Inf. Reg. Sent to Hawaii while on the way to the Philippines Dec. 7, 1941. Returned for OCS at Ft. Benning, GA as a Corporal. Finished OCS and joined the 34th Div. in Tunisia, Africa in May 1943. Attached to Co. B 133rd Inf. as a Platoon Leader. Wounded, returned to Command Co. A; wounded, returned to Hq. Co. Stayed with 133rd until we reached Lake Como. Returned to States to Exec. O. Repl. Pool, Camp Campbell, KY.

After V.J. Day returned to New Jersey to move to California as a Capt. USAR. I went into sales, married Niola Braud in 1954. We have two children and three grandchildren. We have made our home ever since in San Diego.

John V. Melucci

In 1961 I started a company called, Mission Carpet Distributors. We sold carpet and pad wholesale, and in 1979 I incorporated the Company. Now retired on Social Security, disability Army pay (10%), Military Retirement pay. I retired from USAR as a Lt. Col. My son runs the corporation and I work six hours a week to run the credit department.

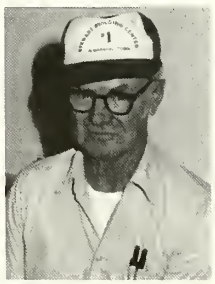
ELSWORTH MELZER, born Sept. 1, 1917 at Minot, ND. Father was a barber. Moved to Minnesota in 1919. Was drafted in 1942. Took my training in Arkansas and the Carolinas. I joined Co. E 168th Inf. in the early days of the African conflict. Was a rifleman and later a master gunner. Was engaged in most of the major battles.

After the African Conflict we were sent to Italy; went almost the whole way to Austria. Was wounded the 8th of November in 1943, then hospitalized for three months. A shortage of replacements brought me back to the unit. My name came up for rotation in the Spring. The day I departed from the outfit the 34th German Div. surrendered to the 34th American Div.

Was discharged June 9, 1945 after serving 36 months.

After returning home went back to farming. Got married; have three sons and five grandchildren.

HENRY S. MENNENGA, was born in Tama Co., IA on June 13, 1920. Joined National Guard Co. D 133rd Inf. Jan. 13, 1941 at Waterloo, IA. Trained in Camp Claiborne, LA called to active duty Feb. 10, 1941. January 15, 1942 departed for ETO, departed Dec. 22, 1942 for AMETO. Took part in Battles and Campaigns at Tunisian, Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno Campaigns as truck driver with "Co. D". March 21, 1945 departed for USA. Arrived Mar. 21, 1945 and discharged May 16, 1945 at Jefferson Barracks, MO.



Henry S. Mennenga

Has Bronze Star, American Defense Service Ribbon, European African-Middle East Theatre Campaign Ribbon, six Overseas Bars - spent 38-1/2 months overseas. Honorable discharged May 16, 1945 as PFC.

Wife Jeanne - married Oct. 4, 1948 - two sons, one daughter and eight grandchildren. Retired and resident of Conrad, IA since 1971.

NICHOLAS A. MERITT, (NICK), born and raised in Rochester, NY. Was inducted into the Army Dec. 17, 1942. Trained at Camp Croft, SC, shipped overseas June 6, 1943. Landed in Casablanca, Africa, and joined the 34th Div. as a replacement, and was assigned to A&P Platoon. Was a mine and demolition man, when the 34th, shipped out and went to Naples. Stayed with the 34th, all during the war. Was in all major battles, from Naples, on up to Anzio Beach, Cassino, Rome, Milan, Bologna, Po Valley and Arno River. Was discharged November 1945 with Rank of T-4, uniform and medals good as new.

Nicholas A. Meritt

I am now retired from E. I. DuPont with 31 years of service. Have wife Helen, two married children, and six grandchildren.

ALVIN J. MESCH, P.F.C., 37696766, was born July 12, 1921 in Bernard, IA. Farmed until I entered service May 11, 1944 at Camp Dodge, IA. Took Basic training at Camp Hood, TX; was shipped overseas in October 1944. On ship 26 days, landed at Bari, Italy in November 1944. Went to Repl. Depot at Caserta, Italy; from there was sent to Repl. Depot at Pondegao, Italy and it was from here that I was sent to join the 34th Div. in the Northern Appennines, on the Winter Line. This was in January 1945. It was from here that the push was made into the Po Valley and on to the end of the War in Italy. I got sick with Yellow Jaundice while on R&R at Monte Cantina, Italy and was sent to Hospital at Leghorn, Italy. I rejoined Co. F 168th at Bologna, Italy and then we moved on to Parma, Italy where we bivouacked and it was at this position where the German 34th Div. surrendered to the American 34th Div. on May 1, 1945.

After we left here and were sent to Ivrea, Italy where we were guarding Fascist Prisoners in a Silk Factory and it was here that War ended and then we were sent to Saluzzo, Italy. Here I injured an old injury that I had received while on the front line and sent back to hospital at Leghorn and from there to the 300 General Hospital in Naples, Italy. From there back to the States and then to Mayo General Hospital, Galesburg, IL.

It was while here that I was married and then sent to Brookie General Hospital at San Antonio, TX. Next to Jefferson Barracks, MO. On Mar. 16, 1946 I was discharged and returned back to Bernard, IA to farm. We raised six children and the last 21 years before I retired I was Deputy Sheriff for Dubuque Co., Dubuque, IA, reaching the rank of Sergeant. I received 50% disability from war injury. Retired and living in Dubuque.

JOHN H. MOCK, born Toledo, IL, Dec. 2, 1918. Drafted into U.S. Army November 1941. Basic training at Camp Croft, SC. Joined Co. I, 135th Inf., 34th Div. March, 1942 at Ft. Dix. Went to North Ireland Apr. 30, 1942. Made invasion North Africa Nov. 8, 1942. Received Silver Star Mar. 6, 1943. Went to Salerno, Italy. Wounded Feb. 3, 1944 at Cassino. Received Bronze Star at Anzio. Was a Platoon Sergeant. Home on rotation June, 1944. Stationed at Daytona Beach, FL until discharged Sept. 5, 1945.

John H. Mock

Elected County Sheriff of Cumberland Co., IL 1950. Served eight years as Sheriff. Elected County Treasurer for eight years. Started at The First National Bank in Toledo, IL in 1965. Elected president September, 1972. Retired Feb. 10, 1987.

Married Dorsa Baker Pfeifer. One son, Joe. Two grandsons, Jon and Adam.

FREDERICK F. MOFFETT, born Leesburg, VA on Nov. 27, 1915. Inducted September 1941. Basic training Camp Croft, SC. Transferred to Co. B, 135th Inf. Ft. Dix, NJ January 1942. Attained rank of Sergeant Platoon Guide.

Left U.S. April 1942 for North Ireland. Left North Ireland for Scotland, England, thence North Africa to Oran. Participated in North African Campaign received shrapnel wound at Fonduch Pass. Spent time in various British and American hospitals. Returned to Co. B just in time for transfer to Italy. Landed at Salerno and stayed with Co. B until Monte Pantano area at which time I was sent back to hospital due to recurrence of old wound. Reclassified to Class B duty and was attached to transportation replacement depot outside of Oran. Rotated to U.S. February 1944. Stationed at Ft. Meade, MD with P.O.R. unit. Discharged June 1944 because of shrapnel wound.

Frederick F. Moffett

Married June 1944 for 37 years. Wife passed away September 1981. Had two sons; now have two grandsons. Retired under Railroad Retirement Act from (formerly) Railway Express Agency after 40 years.

PHIL M. MOGG, born Audubon, IA, Oct. 12, 1918. Joined Iowa National Guard 1936 - Hq. Co. 168th. Inf. Mobilized February, 1941. Trained at Camp Claiborne, LA. Shipped out of Ft. Dix, NJ. February 1942, to North Ireland. Took invasion training in Scotland, and made the Invasion at Algiers, North Africa in November, 1942. Fought on into Tunis, and was taken prisoner at Faid Pass. Spent 27 months as a Prisoner of War in Germany and liberated by the Russians on the way to Berlin. Was Regimental Message Chief at time

Phil M. Mogg

of capture. After discharge from service in 1945, worked as a construction supt. until retirement in 1983.

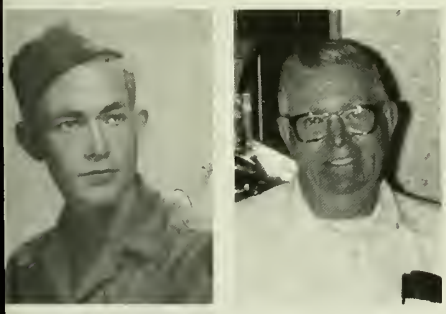
Married to wife Gertrude 45 years. Have two married daughters and four grandchildren. Still lives in Audubon and active in church and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

ROBERT E. MONTGOMERY, born Washington, DC, Jan. 9, 1925. Drafted U.S. Army September 1943. Trained Camp Wheeler, GA. Shipped out for Italy January 1944. Assigned Intelligence Section, HQ Co. 2nd Bn. 135th Inf. at Anzio in April 1944. Beachhead to Rome June 1944. Wounded north of Rome. Attack on Gothic Line September and October 1944. Into Bologna and Po Valley April 1945. Assigned to Milan Garrison Force May 1945 with 2nd Bn. 135th Inf. With breakup 34th Div. August 1945, assigned to Florence Training Command. In October 1945 transferred to 88th Div. in Trieste. Sailed for Norfolk December 1945. Discharged Jan. 9, 1946. Rank of Sergeant. Three major Battle Stars.

Robert E. Montgomery

Wife, Anna, one daughter and one son. Retired from Central Intelligence Agency August 1977.

CECIL RAY MORRIS, born Aug. 24, 1923, Dixie, WV. Resided at Fola, WV "Clay County," when inducted into Military Service at Huntington, WV on Apr. 2, 1943. Trained at Camp Robinson, AR. Shipped to Casablanca, Africa on Sept. 21, 1943 and went through Africa to Bizerta, Tunisia. Shipped to Italy.



Cecil Ray Morris

Was assigned to the "Red Bull" 34th Inf. Div. 168th Inf. Reg. Co. E. Battles: Foggia, Mt. Pantana, Anzio, Rome-Arno. Was captured and taken to Germany, P.O.W. Augsburg, Munich, Landshut for over five months. Was liberated at Landshut, taken to France and shipped back to the States on June 2, 1945. Discharged (as Sergeant) Ft. Meade, MD on Sept. 22, 1945.

Medals: Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Ribbon with two Stars, Presidential Emblem and the World War II Victory Medal.

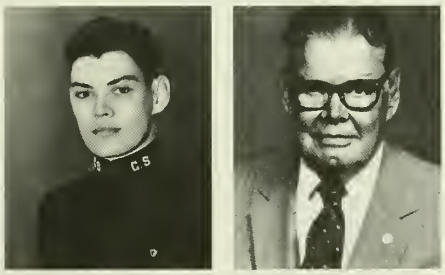
Now reside at Baltimore, MD.

FRANCIS, E. MORSE, (DIXIE), was born in 1924. Inducted into Army May 5, 1943. Took Basic Training at Camp Croft, SC. Joined M Co. 133rd Reg. in November 1943. First action was at Casino. Stayed with M Co. throughout Italian Campaign. Came home with the Division in October 1945. Four Battle Stars; 24 months overseas.

Francis E. Morse

Worked as a Lineman with Duke Power Company in South Carolina for 30 years. Retired in 1981. Now employed as Museum Curator in Cimarron, NM. Wife Bebe; two daughters, two grandsons.

JAMES GARFIELD MOTTES, born 1917, Milwaukee, WI. Completed senior ROTC Shattuck Military Academy 1936. Enlisted Private 135th Inf. 1937. Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant at age 21, 135th Inf. Assigned anti-tank company. Served Camp Claiborne, Ft. Benning, Ft. Dix. In Ireland assumed command anti-tank company, continued through African campaign. In Italy commanded Co. "C" 135th Inf. (rifle). While CO Co. "C" wounded by a hand grenade at Cassino at the monastary wall. Wounded again at the Anzio Beach break out by a mortar shell.



James Garfield Mottes

After the Arno River crossing assigned, Executive Officer 1st Bn. 135th Inf. Assigned as Major to the command and Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, fall of 1945.

Decorations include Silver Star, Bronze Star with V device and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, five Campaign Stars, plus six service medals. Retired Colonel Army of United States 1965. Forty-one months European theater of operations WWII.

HARRY EDWARD MURDOCK, born Brooklyn, NY. Inducted Sept. 20, 1943 - Camp Upton, NY. Basic training Sept. 23, 1943, Ft. McClellan, AL.

Training Center - Caserta, Italy - March 1944.

Assigned Division - 34th Inf. - 135th Reg. Co. C - April 1944 - Anzio.

Other assignments - G-5 - AMC - July 1945 - Aosta Army Exchange PX Sept. 30, 1945 - Leghorn.

MIA July 6, 1944. Wounded in Action Sept. 18, 1944.

Harry Edward Murdock

Promotions-Sergeant July 21, 1944 - S/Sergeant Jan. 22, 1945, 2nd Lieutenant - Battlefield Commission - Apr. 15, 1945 - Assigned to 135th Reg. Co. C.

Awards - Bronze Star - Purple Heart - Combat Infantry Badge - four Campaign Ribbons - five Gold Overseas Stripes.

Separated - Dec. 23, 1945 - Ft. Dix, NJ.

Married - wife: Ruth Evelyn, two daughters, six grandchildren.

RAY R. MURDOCK, born Cedar Rapids, IA Sept. 24, 1909. Enlisted Co. C, 133rd Inf. 1926 for three years and rejoined in 1932. Obtained commission Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 133rd Inf. on mobilization 1941 to Camp Claiborne, LA. Left for Northern Ireland Feb. 18, 1942 for training. Entered Algiers D plus 4 and subsequently to Anzio Beachhead. Trfd. to 133rd Inf. Cannon Co. as Forward Observer until end of hostilities in Italy. Was present when 34th Div. captured German 34th Div. Hq. Transferred to Adjutant at POW Camp until returned home 1945. Reactivated Co. C, 133rd Inf. ING at Cedar Rapids, IA. Assigned as 133rd Inf. Asst. S3 as Captain.

Ray R. Murdock

Retired after 20 years of service. 43 months overseas, has Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, French Legion of Merit, six Battle Stars, and other ribbons. Has two sons, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Now retired in Mesa, AZ.

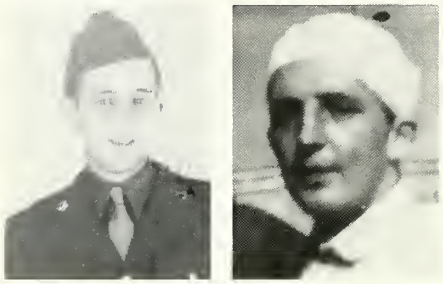
CALVIN S. NADING, born Mederville, IA, June 20, 1922. Enlisted April 1941 at Elkader, IA and was sent to Ft. Des Moines, then to Jefferson Barracks. Moved from there to Camp Claiborne F. Co. 168th Inf. Transferred to F Co. 133rd at Ft. Dix.

Calvin S. Nading

Served seven months in Ireland, three months in England and then Algiers in December 1942 where I was in the Guard Bn. On to Italy and Anzio where I was wounded in the chest and hand. Returned to the States and hospitals for seven months in Michigan, Arkansas, and Colorado. Discharged in January 1945. Was awarded Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge plus other ribbons.

I have four children and four grandchildren, and my wonderful wife, Helen. I am retired from trucking and live in Cedar Rapids, IA.

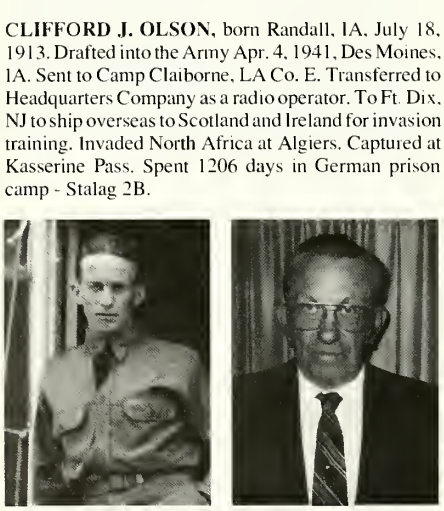
ARTHUR W. NELSON, joined "M" Co., 3rd Bn, 135th Inf. in July, 1943 in North Africa and served as messenger/radioman. Hit in the head by "friendly fire" near Cassino, Italy on Feb. 4, 1944. A buddy, John L. Ray wrote me soon after I was hit "Boy, I will never forget the day you were hit. Didn't believe you would live ten minutes. Don't know how you lived through the night. When they came and got you with the stretcher. To top it off you were singing when they took you away..."



Arthur W. Nelson

I sang to cheer up my comrades — I was "down" but not "out". With a metal plate in my skull I was discharged December, 1944 with most of the initial paralysis, from the head wound, gone. Later graduated from college, married, retired from employment but not from life: with my trained baritone voice I sing, gratis, at hospitals, nursing homes, etc. and recently, at age 65, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a stadium.

CLIFFORD J. OLSON, born Randall, IA, July 18, 1913. Drafted into the Army Apr. 4, 1941, Des Moines, IA. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA Co. E. Transferred to Headquarters Company as a radio operator. To Ft. Dix, NJ to ship overseas to Scotland and Ireland for invasion training. Invaded North Africa at Algiers. Captured at Kasserine Pass. Spent 1206 days in German prison camp - Stalag 2B.

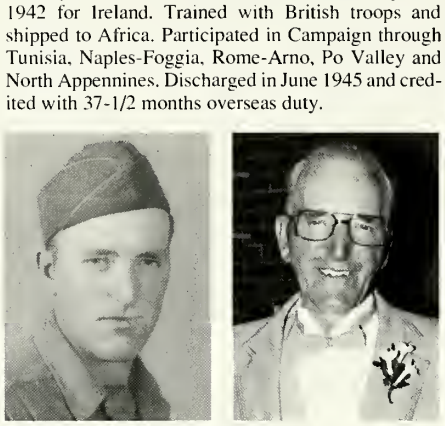


Clifford J. Olson

Have five major Battle Stars. Out in 1946. Married Edna Pringle, 1971. She died 1976. Married Irene Jessen Brown 1980. Worked for Younglove Construction Company for many years as a millwright and hydraulic jack specialist building grain elevators and feed mills. Retired to Story City, IA in 1980.

Army memories include Judy Wayne, Dale Ray, Mel Gardner, Gene Pousch, Lt. Bates, Lt. Jones, Carl and Jim Sayre, Sgt. Richard Porter, Frank Maxwell, John Murray and Art Clementson. We nearly starved to death, endured cold and lice, walked many a mile, but we survived and we cherish our freedom.

HENRY E. OLSON, born Nov. 16, 1917 at Langdon, ND. Inducted into the service on May 8, 1941 at Ft. Snelling, MN. Assigned to Co. M, 135th Inf., 34th Div. (Red Bull). Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA for basic training. Guarded oil supply depot December 1941 - January 1942. Transferred to Ft. Dix, NJ. Left Apr. 30, 1942 for Ireland. Trained with British troops and shipped to Africa. Participated in Campaign through Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Po Valley and North Appennines. Discharged in June 1945 and credited with 37-1/2 months overseas duty.



Henry E. Olson

Following discharge, went into trucking business for three years and then began farming. Presently retired. Married in 1949, have three sons and one daughter and four grandchildren. Hobby is woodworking.

MELROY CLARENCE OLSON, born Zumbrota, MN on June 18, 1919. Enlisted September 1940, 34th Div. National Guard. Mobilized Feb. 10, 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA, Co. F Transportation. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ Dec. 12, 1941. Went to Belfast, Ireland for training. Started changing into different company and we were made 34th Ord., then later to 734th Ord.

Shipped to Mansfield, England, boarded ship for Oran, Africa. Battled with Gen. Montgomery against Rommel forces at Cassren Pass. Our Major blew up the Pass and we retreated 40 miles to keep from being captured. Returned to Oran to be shipped to Italy. We were torpedoed at Lake Berserta, waited for ship, then went to Salerno. Went up to Cassino, then returned to Naples.

Shipped to Anzio, then on to Rome and Florence. Went up to Po Valley and on up to the Austrian Border. That is where 40 thousand Germans surrendered to the 34th Div. Then shipped back to Naples and 34th Div. was dismantled and sent back to the States—Norfolk, VA. Discharged at Ft. McCoy, WI on Aug. 16, 1945.

Melroy Clarence Olson

Had 636 hours of combat time; 42 months overseas. Re-entered the Army Oct. 1, 1947 and went to Ft. Sheridan, IL, then on to Ft. Knox, KY for training.

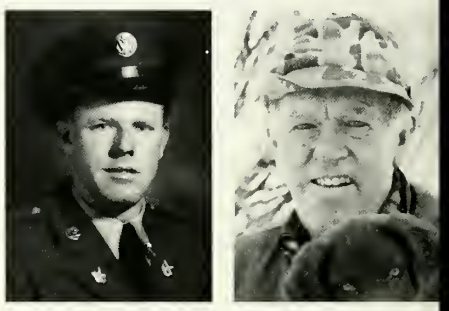
Met and married my wife Dixie. We are still married and have a son Roger, 31 years old.

Then shipped to Sandia Base, NM to A-Bomb base, was cleared by FBI for this job. Discharged in 1951. Joined the Army Reserve in 1958 and stayed in Reserves for 17 years. Total time in Reg. Army and Reserves 26-1/2 years.

Worked on many different jobs but retired with 23 years at International Harvester in Louisville, KY. Am an active member of VFW #3281 in New Albany, IN. Post Commander for three years, one of which I was named All State Commander. Still holding an office in the VFW #3281 and 8th District Hospital Chairman and VAVS Representative at VA Hospital in Louisville, KY. Am a life member of the 34th Div. Assn.

Tidbit of information: Melroy Olson and his brother, Palmer Olson, enlisted together and served together all through the War in 34th Div. Palmer isn't a member of the 34th Div. Assn., but I am sending his picture too. Also pictures of the cooks before leaving Camp Claiborne, LA, Melroy Olson in hospital near Rome, Italy and picture of Melroy Olson now.

WILLARD B. OLSON, born Oct. 15, 1918, New London, MN. Drafted Apr. 4, 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA - Co. C - 135th Inf. - 34th Div. Trained in North Ireland, then fought in North Africa, participated in the Victory Parade in Tunis, May 20, 1943. Landed at Salerno, fought in Italy, then by hospital ship back to North Africa. Reassigned to Railroad M.P.s in Italy until October 1944. Returned to U.S.A. on points. Served in 3188th Ord. Co. Igloo, SD. Was discharged Sept. 11, 1945, from Camp McCoy, WI.

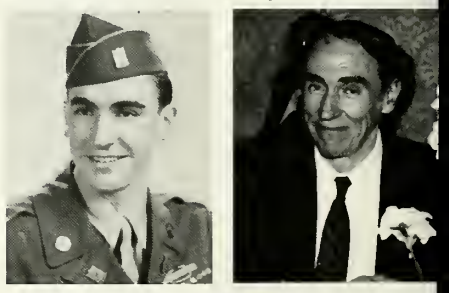


Willard B. Olson

Started farming near New London, MN in 1946 continued 'till 1971. Now retired, hobbies are hunting, trapping, gardening, bowling and preparing and selling firewood.

Married 1946, has two daughters and one son. Willard and Carolyn live rural New London, MN.

WILLIAM ORWAT, born Feb. 24, 1920 - Philadelphia, PA. Joined Army March, 1943 - Basic training at Ft. McClellan and Camp Rucker, AL. Left for overseas as Infantry Replacement. Arrived in Italy, Oct. 5, 1943 - Scheduled for 45th Inf. Div. but last minute exam found heart murmur. Sent back to Africa General Hospital, found OK. Sent back to Italy, December 1943. - Ship returning to Naples, hit mines and beached. All records, etc. lost. After retesting, sent to 34th Div. at Anzio, Apr. 17, 1944, 133rd Reg. Anti-Tank Co. Spent half combat time as stretcher bearer. March 1945, Platoon was assigned to use Rockets, (15 rockets mounted on 37 MM Guns). First fired at Monzuno, fired 1600 rounds, then back to 57 MM near Bologna, Apr. 17, 1945.



William Orwat

African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, four Bronze Battle Stars, WWII Victory Medal, Bronze Star Medal.

Discharged 1945 - wife Kathleen - six children - wife deceased 1973 remarried Josephine 1977 - total of nine children and 12 great grandchildren. Retired - hobby: Art.

CURTIS W. O'SHELL, born Dec. 9, 1915 at Ebensburg, PA. Drafted from Pittsburgh, PA Oct. 27, 1941. Sent to Ft. Meade, MD, then to Camp Wheeler, GA. Joined Co. E 168th Inf. 34th Div. Ft. Dix, NJ. January 1942. Sailed on the "Santa Rosa" to Ireland. Volunteered for the Commandos at DunBarton, Scotland. Moved on to the invasion of Algiers armed with a "BAR" then to TeBassa and Stuka Valley (Sned Station). Captivity at Faid Pass, Feb. 17, 1943. Moved by Germans to Tunis, Sicily, Italy, Germany, Poland and "Camp Lucky Strike" France. Liberated by Russians May 2, 1945. Returned to U.S.A. June 1945, discharge September 1945.

Curtis W. O'Shell

Returned to Mesta Machine Company and completed 40 years service as a machinist helper and metal separator. Presently retired. Married in 1941. One Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, two Battle Stars and four other ribbons.

Had 13 weeks of Basic Training at Camp Wheeler.

I lived in the home of a Scottish family as a commando - my partner was a "DogFace" last name was "Marshall."

In TeBassa - Arabs stole our shoes.

At Sned Station the truck on which I was being transported to the front got lost during the night, when daylight came the driver told us to get off, we had to walk five hours to find the Company.

The prisoner camps were called "Barb Wire Pens".

ROBERT L. OWEN, born Norfolk, NE, May 31, 1921. Joined National Guard 168th Inf. Reg. Band as French horn player October 1940, Council Bluffs, IA. Transferred to M Co. Machine Gun Unit when guards mobilized to Camp Claiborne, LA for training with K Co. rifle and runner. Back to band, 168th, training with medics, first aid and stretcher barers to Ft. Dix, NJ to leave states to North Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Invaded Africa at Algiers. Band captured at Kasserine Pass at Fiad as CP guards. Was one of two bandsmen who escaped from behind German lines after ten days. Started new 168th Reg. Band as rank T-4 as CP Guards. Invaded Italy at Salerno. Carried stretchers at Cassino. Band left 34th Div. as 116th U.S. Army Band at Naples.

Robert L. Owen

Has Bronze Star and four other ribbons, five Major Battle Stars, 37 months overseas. Out in 1945. Wife, Mary Lou, two sons and four grandchildren. Directs Elks Band Council Bluffs, IA.

ERROL L. PAGE, born Dec. 16, 1914, in Warren Co., KY. Entered service Oct. 16, 1941. Took basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. Was P.F.C. in 168th Inf. Joined 34th Div. in February 1942. Went to Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Was supply clerk, truck driver. Participated in the invasion of Africa at Algeria. Was in battles at Sened, Faid Pass, Fondouk Pass, Sidi Nsir, Eddik Khila all in Tunisia. Invaded Italy at Salerno on through Cassino, Naples and the Appennines.

Errol L. Page

Has three Bronze Stars, E.A.M.E. Campaign Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Sharpshooter M1903 Rifle. Served 27 months overseas before returning to U.S. May 1944. Was reassigned to 275th Inf. before being honorably discharged on Dec. 5, 1944.

Wife, Lettie, one son, Errol Wayne (A Vietnam Veteran and now a Captain in National Guard in Kentucky) and three grandchildren. Deceased Mar. 9, 1984.

VITO PARISI, born Mar. 8, 1924. Entered Hq. Co. 2nd Bn., 135th Inf. approx. Mar. 24, 1944 as a pioneer.

Landed in Casablanca, North Africa in Oct. 15, 1943.

I was at Naples, Foggia, North Appennines, Po Valley, Roma, and Arno, Italy.

Decorations and Citations: European-African Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge.

Discharged Nov. 8, 1945 from Ft. Dix, NJ as a P.F.C. Outstanding battles are Cassino, Anzio, Roma, Pisa, Livorno, Bologna, and Po Valley.

Vito Parisi

One of my trying times was when I lived in a covert for 40 days. The Germans bombed the road but missed by 30 yards.

Married Esther Jane Terrangnoli on Oct. 9, 1948.

We have three sons and two daughters and two grandchildren.

Retired as an electronic technician for 35 years from Bell Aerospace.

We were at the gates of Milano, when the German 34th Div. surrendered to the American 34th Div. which ended the war in Italy.

PAUL P. PARLOCK, born in Seanor, PA, Feb. 10, 1924. Enlisted Dec. 4, 1942. Basic training at Ft. Knox, KY. Went to Africa and joined the 34th Div. Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop as gunner on the light tank. Shipped to Italy where the light tank was replaced with an armored car.

Landed in Salerno and fought in battles: Naples-Foggia, Cassino, Rome-Arno, Northern Appennines and Po Valley. Went to Trieste for a brief period of occupation.

Received the Bronze Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters and Northern African Middle Eastern Service Medal with four Bronze Stars.

Paul P. Parlock

Departed Europe on Oct. 22, 1945 and discharged Nov. 8, 1945.

Returned to coal mines and retired in 1985 after 40 years from Island Creek Coal Co., Tire Hill, PA.

Married in 1956; has one daughter, three sons and seven grandchildren.

JOHN R. PARRY, born at Albert Lea, MN, Feb. 28, 1914. Joined National Guard Co. G, 135th Inf., 34th Div. at Albert Lea, MN in 1938. Unit was mobilized to federal service February 1941 to Camp Claiborne, LA. We were the first troops to leave the United States, landed in Northern Ireland and was transferred to M Co. 135th as a heavy mortar man.

Invaded Tunisia and North Africa. Received Combat Infantry Badge, Battle Stars for Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, and North Apennines. In 1943 we received the distinguished Unit Citation.

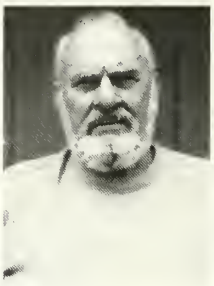
John R. Parry

Has European-African-Middle Eastern-Theater Service Medal. American Defense Service Medal, five Overseas Service Bars.

One year nine months continental service, two years, seven months foreign service. Discharged as a Tech 4 on July 28, 1945 for demobilization purposes. Wife, Kathryn, two sons, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

ORVILLE N. PEDERSEN, born June 6, 1919 in Minneapolis, MN. Joined the National Guard 135th Inf. Medical Detachment in 1940; volunteering for one year service. When Guards were mobilized went to Camp Claiborne, LA. Transferred to 133rd Inf. Medics after Pearl Harbor. I was shipped to North Ireland with first ship load of American troops to be sent to Europe. Transferred back to 135th Inf. Medics when balance of division arrived in Ireland. Acted as company aid man with H Co. 135th Inf. during the African Campaign and

into the invasion of Italy and with Cassino. Promoted to Corporal in charge of 2nd battalion medical litter squads.



Orville N. Pederson

I was wounded at Anzio. Was one of the few soldiers sent home on furlough and returned to the war zone. Discharged from the service in August 1945. Returned to Minneapolis and took up the carpenter trade and was in business for myself. Raised a family of four children. We lived in Bloomington for 31 years and just recently moved to East Bethel, MN.

OLIVER C. PEDERSON, was born Oct. 14, 1915 in St. Paul, MN. Joined the Minnesota National Guard 151st Field Atry. Btry. A as a Bugler in May 1934 to May 1940. In October 1940 enlisted again.

On Feb. 10, 1941 the unit was called to active duty and we were sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. In December 1941 the Division was changed from square division to a triangle division. The 2nd Bn. became the 175th Field Arty. Bn.

I went with them to Camp Dix, NJ. Then we shipped out to Northern Ireland and then to Scotland for more training. From there we made the Invasion of North Africa. Then the Battalion made a motor march to Tunisia. Next we went to Italy.

Oliver C. Pederson

After the Italian campaign I returned to the U.S. with more than 600 days of war. In 1945 I became a civilian for two and one-half years, then went back in the service at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery as Bugler on an Honor Squad for two years. I then went to Ft. Custer, MI to the 79th A.A.A. Gun. Bn. From there was transferred to the Ordnance Corps. I retired from the Army after more than 30 years.

Worked in a factory for 12 years and am now retired for good. I am presently a Squad Leader at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery on an Honor Rifle Squad one day a week for the past seven years.

EDWARD A. PEIFFER, born Feb. 13, 1919 Sigourney, IA. Inducted Jefferson Barracks, MO May 10, 1941. Joined Co. H 168th Inf. (Rifle) 34th Inf. Div. at Camp Claiborne, LA. Unit departed U.S. Apr. 30, 1942 for North Ireland and then Scotland for invasion training. Invaded Africa and saw battle at Algiers, Sened, Fondouk Pass, Hill 609, Tunis, and Bizerte including an escape through enemy territory at Faid Pass to friendly lines, also guarded German PWs. Participated in Salerno beachhead landing, Battle of Mount Pantano, Cassino, Rome-Arno and Castellina Battle. Hit with schrapnel while holding Appennine Line in Northern Italy, October 1944. SSG, 81 mm Heavy Mortar NCO, acting Platoon Sergeant for five months.

Edward A. Peiffer

Has four Bronze Campaign Stars, three other ribbons, the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and five Overseas Service Bars. Medical discharge July 17, 1945. Wife, Maxine, two sons, three daughters, four grandchildren. Deceased Nov. 16, 1976.

STEPHEN PETRONCHAK, ACN, 33609442. Born Feb. 5, 1925. I was going to school in 1943, when I was drafted for service in August of 1943. We took our basic training in Ft. McClellan, AL. We were scheduled for 12 weeks' basic and were told we would be overseas in 1944. Then word came back to the offices that the men were not getting enough training, so they gave us four more weeks of training.

From Alabama we went to Virginia, Patrick Henry Port of embarkment for overseas. We were put on the ship "Butner". We arrived at the Rock of Gibraltar in Africa, from there we were put on a train and went to some mountain camp, then went to a port and were loaded onto some ships and went to Naples, Italy harbor.

From Naples we went to some camp and from there they shipped us to our Company and that was the 34th Div. I ended up in Co. I, 34th Div., 135th Inf.

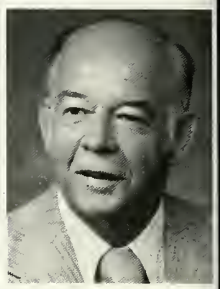
Stephen Petronchak

I joined the 34th Div. in 1944 at Anzio Beach in Italy, and fought up the boot in Italy. I was wounded on July 1, 1944 in the town of Lenovia, Italy. We were heading for Rome, but I was sent back to a hospital in Naples, Italy.

I joined my outfit again and never got to see Rome. I joined them before Florence, Italy and fought through the mountains. When we got on top we could see the land was getting flat, what they called Po Valley. In the mountains I was wounded again on Oct. 11, 1944. I was shot through the right foot while on an assault against the Nazis. I was sent back to the hospital because most of the bones in my right foot were broken. So that brought me back to the U.S.A. to a hospital in Virginia. From there was sent to Atlantic City Hospital. Then went to Virginia Beach to recuperate. Was discharged July 7, 1945. I received a Purple Heart and the Oak Leaf Cluster.

I got a job in construction and joined the Operating Eng. 542 Union in 1956. I married on May 6, 1972. Retired in December of 1986 and enjoying retirement. I'm very proud to have belonged in the Red Bull Division 34th!

PHILIP PHELPS, (DOC), born Jan. 26, 1920, Harlan, IA. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1940 (L Co. 168th Inf. Council Bluffs, IA). Went to Claiborne, LA for one year and departed from Ft. Dix on February 18th and landed in Ireland Mar. 2, 1942. Trained with British #1 Commandos for the landing of Algerian Campaign. Went back to 168th Inf. after Kasserine Pass and stayed with 34th until 1945.



Philip Phelps

Received Battle Field Commission at Mt. Cassino. Received Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Battle Star for Algerian, Tunisian and Italy Campaigns. Served in the Battles of French Morocco, Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, No. Appennines Mts., Rome-Arno, and Po Valley.

Married and have one son and three grandchildren. Had our own business for 27 years. Entered politics and served eight years as County Supervisor. Retired in 1983.

HAROLD I. PHILLIPS, born Oct. 14, 1919 in Spencer, IA - Volunteered for Army, inducted Omaha, NE Apr. 24, 1941. Sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO - shipped to Camp Claiborne, LA - 34th Div. 135th Inf. Co. "I". Trained 1941 - shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ. Spring 1942 - shipped to Ireland - trained eight months, shipped to Africa and fought in Algiers Invasion and Tunisian Campaign. Wounded Mar. 5, 1943 - hospitalized four months and transferred to replacement unit. Shipped to Italy - moved replacement troops to combat units. Later sent home on delay in route to Pacific Theater - reassigned at Ft. Lewis, WA to Camp Roberts, CA - training recruits. Moved to Ft. Benning, GA - 4th Infantry School troops, eight months training (OCS) Officers for Infantry duty. Discharged Aug. 25, 1945 and moved to Washington State.

Harold I. Phillips

Worked in construction 14 years and food store fixtures and cabinetry 21 years. Retired 1983. Married 1946, one daughter, one son and six grandchildren.

DARREL W. PIPER, born Nov. 29, 1917 near Fairfax, SD. Joined Army on Apr. 17, 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Was assigned to 109th Combat Engineers Regular Co. D, which later became Co. B.

The 34th Div. was known as a Square Div. and was reformed to a Triangle Div. Left Camp Claiborne on Dec. 8, 1941 to Camp Dix, NJ. Then left for overseas duty. But was delayed near Halifax, Nova Scotia. Returned to Boston and was stationed at Camp Devens, MA. From there went to Ireland, Camp Kellades.

Trained in Ireland, then shipped to Liverpool, England. Then invasion of Africa. Served through Marco Algiers, and Tunisia. Landed at Salerno. We proceeded to Naples, Italy. Many crossings of Volturno River, attack on Cassino. Was wounded at Cassino on Jan. 6, 1944. Landed at Anzio Beach. Was in on breakout to Rome and Turon and Po Valley. Also served with 442nd and 100th Bn. Amican Japanese. Was discharged September 1945.

Darrel W. Piper

I've been married 41 years with one son and one daughter. Spent most of my working years in industrial machinery business. Now retired.

LAWRENCE W. PITT, born Sept. 11, 1917. Inducted into Army at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN. Took basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. Boarded ship at Newport News, VA for overseas duty in Italy January 1944. Left ship at the Bay of Naples. Joined 34th Inf. Div. at Anzio Beachhead as a rifleman. Shortly after was made radio operator. Helped to liberate Rome. Through Po Valley, the American 34th Div. captured the whole German 34th Div. We went on to take Bologna and then on to Milan.

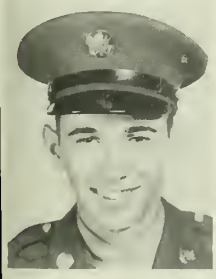
Lawrence W. Pitt

Reenlisted Dec. 21, 1945 in Gorizia, Italy. Out Jan. 12, 1947. Thirty-six months overseas. Have five major Battle Stars.

Wife Mildred; two daughters, Vivian and Darla, one son, Don, and five grandsons. Now retired.

ROBERT POLINSKY, was born Apr. 13, 1924, New York City. Inducted into Army on Feb. 10, 1943 at Camp Upton, NY. Sent to Camp Robinson, AR for Basic Training in April 1943. Sent to Camp Shenango, PA and then to Newport News, VA for shipment in September 1943.

Landed in Casablanca, North Africa, Sept. 30, 1943, joined 34th Div. Co. L. 168th Inf. in October 1943 at Volturno River.



Robert Polinsky

Participated in Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Appennines Campaigns. Wounded Jan. 26, 1945; captured by Germans and was a Prisoner of War until May 3, 1945 when liberated by Americans at Merano, Italy.

Recuperated at Halloran Hospital, NY. June 1945 discharged from hospital and Army on Dec. 29, 1945.

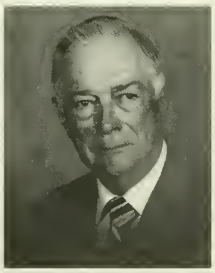
Married; have worked in sales.

ELMER L. POPEJOY, born Nov. 1, 1915 in Wells Co., IN. Went into Army October 1941. After Basic Training in Georgia was moved to Ft. Dix, NJ where I joined the 34th Div. Was promoted to Corporal and after moving to Enniskillen, N. Ireland was made a Sergeant. I was busted three times but usually got my rating back after a short time.

Elmer L. Popejoy

I was finally transferred from Co. B 168th to Co. C 168th. In battle of Mt. Pantano in the afternoon of Nov. 30, 1943, a Lt. Creighton came to me and offered me the rank of Sergeant. I accepted but three or four hours later he was dead and I was wounded. Although I was a Sergeant my records were lost and I was discharged as a Private. After 30 years as a Postal Clerk I retired and live in a resort area at Lake Santee in Southeastern Indiana.

ROBERT O. POPLIN, JR., born Ronda, NC. Jan. 3, 1916. Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Field Artillery, ORC, 1937. Two tours as Junior Officer CCC camps. Active duty Ft. Bragg, Benning, Sill, 1940-1941. Assigned 125th FA Bn., 34th Inf. Div., Ft. Dix, NJ. April, 1942. Married there in Chapel #10. April 26; sailed for Northern Ireland on "Cristobal" April 30. Northern Ireland seven months. Sailed from Liverpool Dec. 24, 1942, landed Mers El Kebir, Oran. Participated in Tunisian Campaign. Transferred 185th FA Bn. In Italian Campaign as Bn. S-2 landed Salerno; served as CO Btry. "A". Transferred 522nd Port Bn., Naples as Adjutant. ETO 28 months. Field Artillery School, Motors Courses, at close WWII.



Robert O. Poplin, Jr.

First CO Co. "A", 120th Inf. NCARNG, Elkin, NC. Ten years NG service. Retired as Major.

Principal of schools for 32 years, last 19 as Principal of North Surry High School, Mount Ariey, NC. Retired 1978.

Wife, Lillian, two sons, two grandchildren. Kiwanian.

EDWARD PRESSER, JR., born Mar. 23, 1921, Okmulgee, OK. I was drafted July 8, 1942. Sent to Ft. Leonardwood, MO. Joined the 34th Div. 168th - 2nd Bn. Co. G under Capt. Apgar at the French Barracks in Italy. Fought at the invasion of Anzio and participated in the Tunisian Campaign and the Italian Campaign. Was wounded just outside of Rome and sent to McKinney General Hospital in McKinney, TX. Was discharged from there in October 1944.

Edward Presser, Jr.

After discharge, attended Technical School and operated a weekly newspaper for two years. Worked as Dispatcher for City Fire Department for 26 years. Presently retired. Married in 1946, have two sons and a daughter and two grandchildren.

BENNIE REICH, born Sept. 27, 1919 at Fredonia, ND. Inducted on May 7, 1941 at Ft. Snelling, MN and stayed there ten days. Shipped to Camp Claiborne, LA. Joined the 1st Bn. Hq. Co. 135th for Basic Training. On Dec. 7, 1941 was shipped to Air Naval Base, Pensacola, FL. January 1942 shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ. Transferred to 2nd Bn. Hq. 133rd. Shipped to North Ireland arriving Jan. 23, 1942.

Trained in England at the Watkins Barracks as Guard for Allied Force Hq. in Algiers, North Africa. 1943 landed in Naples, Italy and rejoined the 34th Div. Fought our way up the Po Valley. Wounded Oct. 16, 1944. Discharged Aug. 23, 1945 in Spokane, WA.

Bennie Reich

Married Dec. 5, 1945; three daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

Railway Mail Service 1951-1969. St. Paul Post Office until retirement June 30, 1978.

Decorations received: Bronze Star, Good Conduct, American Campaign, Combat Infantry, Purple Heart, WW-II Victory Medal, European African Middle Eastern; American Defense; Six Overseas Bars.

Proudly served his country as a section leader Sergeant of the Wire Section.

CALVIN A. REPONEN, born Duluth, MN on Jan. 21, 1924. Joined U.S. Army, Ft. Snelling, MN June 1943; basic infantry training and infantry motor school at Camp Roberts, CA. Attended infantry school and maintenance and motor officer's advanced school at Ft. Benning, GA. Joined 135th Inf. as replacement Cassino area around February-March 1944. Served with Co. L 3rd Bn. short time (at Anzio was on temporary duty with Service Co. 135th Inf.) but was assigned 3rd Bn. Hq. C. 135th served with A.&P. Platoon, anti-tank platoon. Was truck driver and mechanic at various times and was 3rd Bn. Motor Sergeant

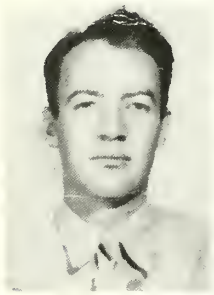
summer of 1945 I was declared essential and assigned to an extra six months' overseas with Army of Occupation.

Calvin A. Reponen

I have several Combat Infantry Badges, Bronze Star and five other Ribbons, three Battle Stars, Meritorious Service Award, Mechanics Award. Served 22 months overseas; out on Jan. 1, 1946.

Wife, June Marie; one son, one daughter, three grandchildren. Work as steamfitter in construction. Served as Chaplain for D.A.V.

ALEXANDER D. ROBERTSON, born Washta, IA, Feb. 21, 1916. Joined the National Guard 168th Inf. Reg. Hqs. January 1941 in Jefferson, IA. From there to Camp Claiborne, Camp Dix, then to Northern Ireland on the Duchess of Atholl. Meningitus struck in August of 1942. I was hospitalized until October 1942 in Londonderry. Transferred to 5th General Hospital, Belfast, for Ward Duty. In December 1942, 5th General moved to Salisbury, England, December 30, to France. February 1945 1st Platoon E Co. 362nd Reg., 94th Div., 3rd Army as medic. This was near the Saar River. From there we moved on to Ludswighaven on the Rhine River. In April of 1945 was granted a furlough back to the States, at Ft. Logan.



Alexander D. Robertson

Honorable discharge Aug. 10, 1945. Three Bronze Stars and one Bronze Star Medal, 37 months overseas. Wife, Ruth, one daughter, one son. Retired IRS, 1978 Austin, TX.

DONALD D. RONK, born in Omaha, NE on May 17, 1921. Raised in Council Bluffs, IA. Joined the Iowa National Guard on Dec. 10, 1940 and inducted into Federal Service on Feb. 10, 1941. Left for Camp Claiborne on Feb. 18, 1941 and was assigned to the Finance Dept. Went on TD to Camp Beauregard, LA for finance training. Left Camp Claiborne for Ft. Dix, NJ on Jan. 11, 1942 and left there for Ireland on Feb. 18, 1942. Arrived Belfast on Mar. 2, 1942. Before leaving Ireland, I made a short trip to Scotland for the Finance Section. Arrived in Liverpool on Dec. 22, 1942. Left there a few days later and arrived in Oran on Jan. 2, 1943. The previous nite we were rammed by an escort ship and had to be towed into Oran. The name of the ship was the Empress of Australia. We accompanied the Division to Tunis and returned to Oran for a short period before embarking to Naples on Sept. 27, 1943. We arrived there on Oct. 6, 1943. While marching to

Donald D. Ronk

our temporary barracks in Naples, the street several blocks to our rear suddenly exploded.

As M/Sergeant and chief clerk of the Finance Section and one of the original members, I became eligible for rotation when we reached Milan. I left the Division on May 7, 1945 and was discharged on June 23, 1945 at Jefferson Barracks, MO. I maintained my status with the Iowa National Guard as a 2nd Lieutenant and was Honorably discharged in January 1952.

THOMAS ROSELL, born December 1921, Denver, CO.

Drafted December 1942 from Iowa State College (Engineering).

Enlisted service: Private thru 1st Sergeant, then received reserve commission (Infantry Officer Candidate School) and orders to Italy in 1944.

Assigned to Co. I, 168th Inf. Reg. as First Platoon Leader.

Participated in North Appennines and Po Valley Campaigns. Decorated with Silver Star by Maj. Gen. Bolte for "Gallantry in Action" at Gorgangnano Church and cemetery (south of Bologna, near Liverngnano) on Apr. 16, 1945.

When 34th Div. returned to United States in October 1945, remained on occupation duty along Yugoslav-Italian frontier as member of 88th Inf. Div.

Received Regular Army Commission in 1947 and remained on continuous active duty until retirement as permanent Colonel in 1974 with 32 years of infantry service during three wars.

During second of three tours in Vietnam over a 16-year period, received second award of Silver Star for "Gallantry in Action" while serving as infantry battalion commander in the 4th Inf. Div. located in the Central Highlands. Served also as G3 (Operations Officer on the General Staff) of 4th Div.

Currently employed as safety director of lumbermill and teacher of mathematics and english.

Volunteer activities include:

(1) VA Hospital, Fayetteville, NC, (2) Counselor at Retirement Services Office, Ft. Bragg, NC, (3) Member of the Ft. Bragg Retirees Council.

DR. JAMES W. RUFF, reached the 34th in early 1944 through camps: Roberts, Liggett, Patrick Henry; and Forts: Lewis, Meade, Carson, and Devens, and transfer from 71st. Div.

Fought as "C" Co. rifleman, 133rd Inf. Transferred to combat medic, 3rd Platoon, same company.

James Ruff

medic job for Doctor of Dentistry in my induction state of Washington. Published a short book on the Italian Campaign: highlighting the Torricella Hill battle of September 1944.

Spent many years locating former buddies. Visited my Commanding Officer, Platoon Leader, and many division men. Rewalked the Italian battlefields in 1985 with hopes to repeat with my lifetime wife in 1989.

STANLEY C. RYAN, born Cleveland, OH, Dec. 20, 1918. Died, Tampa, FL, Sept. 17, 1986. Enlisted, August 1941, at Cleveland and was sent to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN. Transferred to Camp Lee, VA, August 1941, to join Co. H 6th Quartermasters Reg. While at Camp Lee, appointed to the rank of Corporal (December 1941), Sergeant (March 1942) and Tech/Sergeant (May 1942).

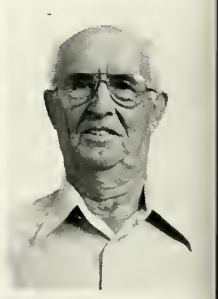
Stanley C. Ryan

Set Camp Lee pistol range record, posting 99 "bulls" out of 100 shots. Transferred in July 1942 to Hq. Detachment, 241st QM Bn., Camp Edwards, MA. Appointed Warrent Officer Jg and entered active duty on Dec. 24, 1942, with Service Co., 168th Inf. 34th Div. Saw action in the Rome-Arno North Appennines and Po Valley campaigns. Stationed in North Africa, Algeria, French Morocco. Battled at Caserta, Battipaglia, Raviscanina, Anzio, Bologna and Rome. Made seven Mediterranean crossings. Led three man patrol that captured nine German soldiers. Out in 1945 after 29 months overseas. Rank, Chief Warrent Officer.

Wife, Louise, three children and two grandchildren. Member of the Anzio Beachhead Veterans Organization. Past Commander of VFW Post 4340, Brandon, FL, where he was a charter life member. Charter member of VFW Post 7592, Chesterland, OH. Past Commander of American Legion Post 336, Painesville, OH.

CHARLES H. SANDERS, born in Burwell, NE. I received my draft notice November 1940 but wasn't accepted because there were enough volunteers to keep me out of first and second call.

When draft notices went out I was picking corn in Silver City, IA and when I came in for lunch my employer told me my name was the second name to be drawn out of Washington for the draft. I still have the draft card. I was inducted into the Army on Apr. 8, 1941 from Avoca, IA. After receiving shots, clothes and army serial number I was assigned to Co. G 133rd Inf. 34th Div. at Camp Claiborne, LA for basic training.



Charles H. Sanders

When war broke out I went to North Ireland, then Invasion of Algiers, Africa fighting our way to Tunisia, then invasion of Italy, Sorrento, Salerno, Capri, Pompeii, Cassino, Anzio, Rome, Naples-Foggia, and Arno. I was wounded in Italy Apr. 23, 1943.

I was awarded the Purple Heart, Good Conduct, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Campaign and Service Medal, American Defense Medal, Campaign Victory Medal. After four years four months 28 days I was discharged from Jefferson Barracks, MO Aug. 29, 1945.

I entered Civil Service, Griffiss AFB, Rome, NY; transferred to Patrick AFB, Cocoa, FL. After a total of 25 years Army and Civil Service, I am retired in Melbourne, FL, a Life Member No. 60 of the 34th Inf. Div.

PAUL SCHEIDECKER, born Clarksville, IA on Oct. 3, 1918. Entered Army on Apr. 28, 1941 at Camp Claiborne, LA. Into the 34th Quartermaster as truck driver. Went through Louisiana maneuvers. Left New York on Jan. 10, 1942 for Ireland with first troops to European Theater.

Went through extensive maneuvers in Ireland. Left Liverpool, England on Dec. 24, 1942 for North Africa. Went through African Campaign driving truck.

Paul Scheidecker

Went to Italy in September 1943 at Salerno. Was at Cassino and Anzio Beachhead. Drove truck over almost impossible conditions at times. Division Citation and four Battle Stars.

Contracted malaria and hospitalized four times. Overseas 39 months. Came back to States on Apr. 20, 1945 and discharged in June 1945.

Married to wife, Marjorie, in 1947. Have two sons, both veterans, and two daughters; six grandchildren. Retired from farming in 1983.

ROBERT GRANT SCHEIFLEY, born Nov. 4, 1919 at Pottstown, PA. Drafted into Army on Nov. 26, 1941 at Ft. Meade, MD. Sent to Camp Croft, SC for basic infantry training. Joined 34th Div., 135th Inf. "M" Co. and was shipped to Ireland Apr. 30, 1942 for combat training.

Shipped to Africa and fought through Tunisian Campaign against Rommel's troops (February 12 to and including May 10, 1943).

Robert Grant Scheifley

Shipped to Salerno Italy and fought through Naples-Foggia Campaign against German troops (Sept. 21, 1943 to and including Battle of Cassino, Feb. 2, 1944) at which time I was wounded and sent to Hospital in Naples, Italy.

Departed for U.S.A. June 26, 1944 and arrived July 5, 1944. Discharged from service Aug. 21, 1945 from Atlantic City Hospital, Traymore Hotel.

Following discharge went to night school, worked as manufacturer engineer. Presently retired. Married in 1947, has two daughters, one son and four grandchildren.

VERNON F. SCHLEISMAN, born Sept. 28, 1919, Lidderdale, IA. Drafted May 1941, assigned to "D" Co. 109th Medical Bn., 34th Inf. Div., Camp Claiborne, LA. To Ireland in February 1942. Amphibious training Scotland. Initial landing Algiers, North Africa November 1942. Transferred to G-3 Div. Hqs. prior to departure for Italy. With G-3 until war ended May 2, 1945. April 26 accompanied Maj. Ernest Durr to advanced command post. Ended up behind German line. I escaped with seven German prisoners. Maj. Durr went to opposite side of road. Was last sighted running through small grain field under fire. Division recon to area to locate Maj. Durr but area under heavy enemy fire. His body recovered next day.

Vernon F. Schleisman

I have Division Citation from Gen. Bolte. Also received a Bronze Star. Forty-one continuous months overseas.

Married Helen Schroer in June 1945. Have five healthy children. Reside in Des Moines, IA. Retired from Milwaukee Railroad 1980.

THOMAS T. SEARS, born Feb. 2, 1908 in New Albany, IN. Drafted in 1943. Replacement in Italy 134th Inf. Co. C and Finance Div. Discharged at Ft. Harrison, IN, November 1945.

CHARLES E. SENS, I enlisted in the Air Force but because of the serious trouble in North Africa I was placed in Co. L 168th Inf. 34th Div. in Oran, Africa. I was with them up thru Africa, Sicily and Italy until Rome where I was wounded and returned to the United States on a hospital ship.

Charles E. Sens

I received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, European, Middle East, and North Africa Medals. I was sent to a general hospital here in Joplin, MO where I was discharged from the Army.

DONALD J. SHEA, My parents homesteaded on a government claim near Wade, MT where I was born Dec. 11, 1917. I resided in Council Bluffs until being inducted into Federal Service with Co. L, 168th Inf. Feb. 10, 1941.

After graduation from high school in 1936 I worked a year at Missouri Valley, IA C.C.C. Co. #778 as Co. Clerk.

Went to work for Illinois Central Railroad February 1938 and worked until Feb. 9, 1941. Went to Camp Claiborne, LA Mar. 1, 1941 until leaving for Ft. Dix January 1942. Arrived in Belfast, Ireland Mar. 1, 1942 for training. Participated in the invasion of North Africa November 1942. Moved to Tunisian front January 1943. Captured at Faid Pass Feb. 17, 1943.

Donald J. Shea

Spent 27 months in five different POW camps in Africa, Italy, Poland, Germany until May 1945. Returned to U.S.A. June 1, 1945. Discharged from U.S. Army Aug. 31, 1945.

Married Madeline McClelland Oct. 5, 1946 at St. Francis Church, Council Bluffs, IA. One son Jon.

Employed by Illinois Central Railroad. After 42 years service retired as Engine Foreman Jan. 1, 1983.

BILL SHEA, joined Co. L 168th Inf. Iowa National Guard, in Council Bluffs, IA, in 1938. Then left Council Bluffs and went to Camp Claiborne, LA. With the unit, I then entered into Federal Service, I stayed with the 3rd Bn. 168th Inf. through Ireland, Scotland, North Africa, and Italy. I received a Field Commission in Algiers North Africa. I was then wounded at Faid Pass Mountain at Kasserine, in North Africa.

Bill Shea

After returning to the Battalion, I was assigned to Co. I 3rd Bn. 168th Inf. Capt. Leon Weaver Miller was Co. Commander and we stayed together. In Italy, both of us were wounded and sent back, Capt. Miller was sent home and I was placed on limited service and sent to the Air Force.

At the present time I am a widower, my wife passed away ten years ago. We had seven children, now with 14 grandchildren, and a great granddaughter. I am retired as an upholsterer, from the United States Senate, and I live in Wheaton, MD.

GRANT E. SHENEFIELD, born Nov. 25, 1917 on a farm near Bremen, ID and graduated from Bourbon High School. He worked at Myers Produce in Bourbon until he was drafted for military service. In September of 1941 he was sent to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, IN and was inducted into the army - they were then sent to Camp Wheeler, GA to receive their 13 weeks of training.

Sent to Ft. Dix, NJ in February 1942 in their summer uniforms. When we got there it was very cold and snowy. We got off the train and were lined up. The company commanders came and counted off the number of men they needed to bring their companies up to battle strength. I ended up in the anti-tank Co. 168th Inf. 34th Div. We were issued winter clothing, supplies, the necessary shots and a passport.

On Feb. 18, 1942 we were on a transport ship and were on the water for 12 days going on a zig-zag course, changed every seven minutes because it took that long for the enemy subs to aim the torpedoes. We arrived at Belfast, Ireland and were sent by train to Northern Ireland to do the training that was necessary for the anti-tank co.

Grant E. Shenefield

We still had WWI helmets and rifles. In the summer we were sent to Scotland to finish training that we needed for the Invasion of North Africa. We finally got new helmets, we never got new rifles-still had the old Springfield 1903 rifles when we invaded Algiers, North Africa on Dec. 7, 1942. After the Invasion we were sent to Biskra to help guard the airport with WWI equipment. In February 1943, we were in combat at Sidi-Bo-Said-Gabes-Kasserine Pass and Faid Pass trying to stop Gen. Rommel "the Old Desert Fox" with the German 88 tank guns. Our 33mm guns were not large enough to pierce the heavy armor on the German tanks. You could see the projectiles bounce off like stones. Rommel broke through the whole company. I was a prisoner of war for 27 months of the Germans, they moved us to many different prisoner of war camps in Germany. At the close of the war, the Russians on their American made tanks came through and liberated us. We were starved and weighed less than 80 pounds but we crawled on their tanks and went with them for several days and got to the American lines. I was discharged from Camp Atterbury, IN on Sept. 30, 1945.

My decorations include: Four Battle Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars, American Defense Service Medal, and EAME Theater Ribbon. I was married on Feb. 17, 1942 and Alice and I have two children and three grandchildren. I worked as an auto mechanic and service manager for 30 years and went to Hawaiian Punch Factory as a maintenance man for 13 years. I have retired and am living in Argas, IN. I was very proud to be a part of the 34th Div. and was very proud to serve my country and to help keep the Stars and Stripes flying.

ROBERT E. SHERMAN, born May 28, 1921 in Council Bluffs, IA. Enlisted National Guard Band 168th Inf. June (?) 1938 while still in high school. Inducted into Federal Service Feb. 10, 1941. Served at Camp Claiborne, LA and Ft. Dix, NJ.

Left States Feb. 19, 1942 for Ireland and Scotland. Picture of band appeared in July 27, 1942 LIFE Magazine during visit by King and Queen of England. Band was in on Invasion of North Africa near Algiers.

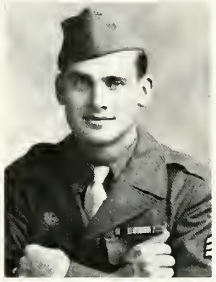
Early in 1943 went to Tunisia as regular infantryman and on February 17 was captured in Faid Pass along with many others during a breakout by the German Africa Corps. Was in camps in Sicily, Italy and Germany. Freed by Russians. Arrived back in States June 12, 1945 and discharged September 27, at Ft. Sam Houston, TX.

Now retired Post Office Clerk. Still play the clarinet.

LYLE SIEBRECHT, born Sept. 1, 1919 at Odebolt, IA. Entered into service Apr. 22, 1941 at Omaha NE. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Later was sent to Ft. Dix, NJ.

February 18, 1942 shipped to Ireland 34th M.P. Platoon Inf. Div. Served in England, Wales. Then to Algiers, North Africa. On to Naples, Italy when the ship I was on was hit and sunk in the Mediterranean. Rescued by an English ship and returned to Africa for months before able to rejoin my company in Naples.

Served in Italy from Southern to Northern areas. Battles and campaigns were Tunisian, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Appennines, Po Valley.



Lyle Siebrecht

Decorations and citations were Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one Silver Battle Star, seven Overseas Service Bars, one Service Stripe.

I was discharged Aug. 16, 1945 at Ft. Sheridan, IL. Returned back to the family farm at Odebolt.

I was married Aug. 27, 1948 and have been farming since. We have one daughter, three sons and seven grandchildren.

MAX A. SIRSTINS, JR., born Mar. 3, 1923 in Salt Lake City, UT. Drafted into the Army at Ft. Douglas, UT on Mar. 5, 1943. Received basic training at Ft. McClellan, AL. Was sent to Camp Shenango, PA on to Camp Shanks, NY. Was shipped overseas on Aug. 20, 1943, landing at North Africa and then to Italy where I became a litter bearer in the 135th Inf., 3rd Bn. Medical Det., 34th Div.

Battles and Campaigns: Naples, Foggia, Rome - Arno, No. Appennines, Po Valley. I was wounded in Italy Dec. 6, 1943. When I was released from the 300th hospital in Naples I became a jeep driver.

Max A. Sirstins, Jr.

I was given the medical badge, European - African - Middle Eastern Ribbon; Good Conduct Ribbon, Purple Heart Ribbon, Silver Star Medal, Croix-de-Guerre. In basic training and while overseas I did a little boxing.

I was discharged Nov. 11, 1945. I am a painting contractor and I learned to fly under the GI Bill and now own my own plane.

On May 17, 1948 I married my childhood sweetheart, Carol Lee, we have four daughters and a son. While I was in the service Carol Lee wrote so many letters, my mail call was "Carol Lee, Carol Lee." We have recently celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary. We are blessed with 11 grandchildren.

HARRY M. SKULBORSTAD, born Aug. 31, 1922 at Madison, MN.

Mobilized Feb. 10, 1941 with Co. I, 135th Inf. 34th Div. National Guard sent to Camp Claiborne, LA.

Shipped to Northern Ireland on board the "Acquitania" arrived May 10, 1942. Left Ireland aboard the Flag Ship HMS Sheffield. Transferred at sea to the HMS Broke for invasion of Algiers, Algeria Nov. 8, 1984. Taken prisoner and held for three days.

Was with Co. I, 135th Inf. 34th Div. throughout the African Campaign.

Harry M. Skulborstad

Went with the 34th Div. to Salerno, Italy. Stayed with Co. I, 135th Inf. 34th Div. until Leghorn, Italy. Received 1st Lieutenant Battlefield Commission. Awarded Gen. Ryder Citation, transferred to Co. L, 135th Inf. 24th Div. At Bologna, Italy on January 1945, was assigned to R&R back to United States.

Assigned to Camp Rucker, LA. Discharged Oct. 1, 1945. DAV Life Member.

Married Gertrude M. Homme Apr. 26, 1945. Graduated University of Minnesota, Electrical Engineer. IEEE Association Member.

Family: three sons, one grandson, two granddaughters. Retired Oct. 1, 1986.

CHARLES MYRON SMITH, born in Utica, OH, Mar. 7, 1922. Joined service Dec. 27, 1942. Sent to Washington, DC - with 176th Inf. - transferred to Ft. Benning, GA, then overseas to Oran, Algeria, and to Naples, Italy to 34th, 135th Reg. Trained on flamethrower and BAR. Earned Sharpshooter's Medal. Medal for Liberation of Florence - Italian Campaign Ribbon with three major Battle Stars - French Unit Citation of Croix de Guerre with Palm for Mt. Belevere - Commendation for Po River Valley against 75th German Corp.

Charles Myron Smith

Reviewed by Churchill, who asked Smitty what Combat Infantryman's Medal was, since it was the only medal he did not have. Wounded in Pisa - also spent a month in hospital with Hepatitis. Discharged Nov. 8, 1945 as Sergeant.

Married Mary Ellen Arnold Dec. 27, 1941. Has two daughters — Berry Elizabeth born Nov. 23, 1941 — Maria Carmella born July 30, 1947. Four grandsons

with one deceased in an accident. Owns W.A.S. SIGNS since 1947. Retired from U.S.P.O. 1971.

GUY SMITH, was born in Opelika, AL on Sept. 15, 1922. I entered the United States Army on Nov. 6, 1942. I entered the 34th Div. in Africa April 1943. From this point on, I was in active combat through Salerno Beach, Cassino, Angio and then on to Rome.

Returned home after reaching Bologna and was in active duty 410 days. I was wounded four times. I received a Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star, Infantry Combat Badge and several other ribbons.

Guy Smith

After being given an Honorable discharge, I returned to the States in 1945. I have a wife, Sara, three daughters, and seven grandchildren. My place of employment is Dudley Lumber Company and has been for the past 20 years.

I am an active member of First Baptist Church, Opelika Civitan Club, Elks Lodge and a member of D.A.V.

LEO J. SMITH, born Nov. 24, 1916, Rochester, MN. Drafted (for one year) into 151st F.A. Bn., 34th Inf. at Ft. Snelling, MN on Apr. 18, 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA for training. Went from there to Ft. Dix, NJ to ship out for Ireland; arrived in January 1942. Went to England for a short time, then left for North Africa; arrived January 1943. After the African Campaign got ready to go to Italy. Landed at Salerno in September 1943. Went thru Italy as Mess Sergeant, truck driver, ammo handler and ammo Sergeant. Left from Busto Lombardo to Rome on rotation. Credited for 42 months overseas and 533 days of combat.

Leo J. Smith

After discharge owned and operated a sandwich shop and a cafe in Rochester, MN for five years. Then joined Co. C, 135th Inf., 47th Inf. Div. Left in January 1951 for Camp Rucker, AL as Co. XO. Returned to Rochester December 1942. Worked 20 years on full time duty with Minnesota National Guard. Retired in 1976 as Lieutenant Colonel.

Married Delores L. McIntosh in 1945. Have two daughters: Mary E. Smorckel and Nancy L. Smith; also two granddaughters.

ROY A. SMITH, born Mar. 16, 1920 in Jefferson, IN. Entered service Oct. 27, 1941. Louisville, KY and took basic training in Camp Wheeler, GA for 11 weeks.

I was then sent to Ft. Dix, NJ for advance training for eight-weeks. Joined F Co. 34th Div. at that time.

Left the States to go to Ireland, Scotland, then on to the invasion of North Africa. Had my ammunition hit by bullets and bent 38 rounds. Wounded on Hill 609, spent three months in the 45th General Hospital and then was sent back to my outfit.

Roy A. Smith

After two weeks was reassigned to 761st Postal Unit in Santa Marie, Italy. Went back to States on points.

Was reassigned as MP Greenhaven, Stormville, NY. Have three Bronze Stars, Purple Heart and my three Battle Stars, Overseas 26 months.

Out of service 1945, wife Amelia and no children. Retired from Ft. Dix, NJ after 37 years service. Work part-time at Belmont Forwarders, Lambertville, NJ.

CARL SNYDER, "Dutch", born New Tripoli, PA July 23, 1923. Student Valley Forge Military Academy Junior College—Reserves; called November 1942. Basic Training at Camp Wheeler, GA. Shipped via Casablanca to Tunis as replacement. Joined "Red Bull" Div. "L" Co., 133rd inf. Rigid training at Sidi-bel Abbes near Oran, North Africa. Invaded Italy at Salerno.

Survived attacks and marches up to the Alps. Wounded-breakthru Anzio Beachhead. Later Platoon Sergeant S-2 Intelligence & Reconnaissance and "Red Raiders" 133rd Reg. Hq. End of Conflict assigned M/ Sergeant of Operation S-3.

Carl Snyder

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals. Campaign ribbon/four major Battle Stars, 30 months overseas; discharged October 1945.

Wife, Kathryn; two daughters, Rebecca and Sally; five grandchildren. Farmer and general contractor. Served 22 years Northwestern Lehigh School Board; 15 years ABE Airport Authority. Participated in 1976 Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Valley Forge. "Habtmon Fon Grundsow (Groundhog) Lodge Number Ains on da Lechaw."

JOHN P. SNYDER, born July 15, 1914 at DeWitt, IA. Drafted Apr. 17, 1941. Went to Jefferson Barracks, MO. Sent to I Co. 133rd Inf. 34th Div. at Camp Claiborne, LA. Sent to Ft. Dix, NJ. From there to Northern Ireland. Got transferred to E Co. 133rd Inf. and sent to England. Then to North Africa to guard Allied Headquarters. I was on the advanced C.P.

Joined the Division in Italy and went to Anzio Beachhead. Wounded at Futa Pass in North Italy. Came home to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and trained recruits. Spent four and one-half years in service with 37 months overseas.

Have several ribbons including four Battle Stars, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge. Earned Buck Sergeant rating in combat. Discharged September 1945.

Since discharge have worked as mechanic, hired hand on farm, worked in feed mill, worked for school system and farmed for myself. Been retired for seven years. I live in Waterloo, IA.

ALVIN E. SOLIDAY, born Chicago, Jan. 9, 1922. Inducted into service Ft. Sheridan, September 1942. Basic training at Camp Walters, TX. Joined the 34th Div., 168th Inf. Co. F as replacement in North Africa, March, 1943. Was at Anzio, Salerno and Monte Cassino. Wounded in Italy November 1943, January 1944 and October 1944. Promoted to Sergeant April 1944. While in hospital in Florence received 30 days leave. Made my way to Marseilles, France to wait for boat and while there worked in Ordnance Department. Received Battle Star for Rhineland Campaign, four other stars for Italy Campaign and four ribbons.

Alvin E. Soliday

Discharged September 1945. Wife Jeanne, one son, one daughter and two grandchildren. Retired from the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, CA in 1978 as Engineering Technician. Does volunteer work for the VA Hospital, Meals on Wheels, Vallejo Museum and Friends of the Library.

IVAN A. SOUCEK, Sergeant, anti-tank company, 135th Inf. Ivan enlisted in the Army on Jan. 22, 1941 and entered into active duty on Feb. 10, 1941. He was a marksman squad leader was qualified as a combat infantryman and marksman.

He participated in the Tunisian, Naples-Foggia, and Rome-Arno Campaigns. He received three Battle Stars, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, and five Overseas Service Bars.

Ivan A. Soucek

Ivan married Marge Schlekewy in November of 1947. They have nine children - seven boys and two girls. They also have five grandchildren. Ivan and Marge live in Burnsville, MN and have for the past 28 years. They spend the winter in Brownsville, TX. In their free time they enjoy traveling, this past summer they drove throughout Canada and up to Alaska to see their oldest son Jim. Ivan and Marge are both very

the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis from 1952 to 1980.

LAVERN B. STAKER, born Mar. 19, 1916 at Traer, IA. Drafted May 1, 1941 Ft. Des Moines. Sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA. Assigned to 133rd Inf. Anti-Tank and Band. Sent to Ft. Dix, NJ. First Expeditionary Forces to land at Belfast, Ireland January 1942.

Assigned to 133rd Service Company mail department. Sent to Oran North Africa December 1942. Went through the whole African Campaign. Kasserine Pass and Hill 609. Sent to Salerno, Italy. All the way up to the Po Valley. Three crossing of the Volturno River, Cassino, Anzio beachhead. Sent home for a 45 day furlough. The point systems was announced. First Iowa boy discharged with 108 points from Ft. Meade, MD May 12, 1945.

Lavern B. Staker

Served four years and 12 days. 38 months overseas, 525 days combat duty. Following discharge I was in the banking profession for 40 years. Married in 1941. Have two daughters, four grandsons, one granddaughter.

DONALD L. STEWART, born July 12, 1921 Mitchell, SD. Enlisted Sept. 29, 1937 HG. Co. 2nd Bn. 168th Inf. Audubon, IA. Active service Feb. 10, 1941 - transfer to REG. HG. CO. 168th Inf. Jefferson, IA March 1941 Depart for Camp Claiborne, LA. Depart from Ft. Dix, NJ landing at Belfast, Ireland February 1942 Africa, Italy. Arrived back into U.S.A. May 20, 1945 Jefferson Barracks, MO. Campaigns, Tunisian, Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, and Algerian. Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct, American DEF, American Camp, European African Middle East, W.W. occup, WWII victory.

Donald L. Stewart

Enlisted Mar. 28, 1949 HG. Co. 3rd Bn. 168th Inf. Audubon, IA. Discharged July 21, 1957 as M.S. S.G. Moved to Manteca, CA 1957. Doing Carpenter work. Member of Carpenters Local 1869 Manteca, CA.

Life Member of VFW Post 6311, Past Allstate Post Commander 1983-1984.

Married Nov. 20, 1946, wife Betty, three children Marvin, Merlin, Marcella, three grandchildren Tiffany, Amber and Christy.

ELMER H. STOCK, born Clarence, IA, Dec. 27, 1916. Inducted into Army, May 1941, Ft. Des Moines, IA. Assigned to Co. C 133rd Inf. Trained at Camp Claiborne, LA until December 1941. Then to Ft. Dix, NJ. On to Northern Ireland for invasion training. Invaded Africa. Captured in Tunisian Campaign Mar. 10, 1943. Interned in Sicily and Italy prison camps under German guards six months. Escaped. Wandered ten months before reaching Allied troops. After repatriation assigned to Headquarters and Service Co. 2nd Prcht. Reg., Ft. Benning, GA.

Elmer H. Stock

Out in July 1945. Awarded two Bronze Stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service and European-African-Mid East Campaign Ribbons, five Overseas Bars. In service four years plus. Employed by Firestone, Monroe, LA as store manager. Died Dec. 15, 1986 of cancer. Survived by wife, Edith, Monroe, LA, one brother, five sisters.

MERLIN L. STRATMOEN, LTC, USA, Ret., born Dec. 2, 1918 at Dawson, MN. Enlisted in Co. "K" 135th Inf., MN N.G. in September 1935. Entered on active duty as a platoon sergeant with Co. "K" on Feb. 10, 1941 when the 34th Div. was federalized, and shipped to Camp Claiborne, LA. Participated in the 1941 Louisiana Maneuvers and providing security for oil refineries and storage facilities in the Galveston - Texas City, TX area immediately following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Moved by rail from Camp Claiborne, LA to Ft. Dix, NJ in January 1942 to stage for overseas shipment to North Ireland.

Departed Ft. Dix via New York on Apr. 30, 1942 aboard the British liner Aquitania. Arrived at Londonderry, North Ireland on May 12, 1942.

Departed North Ireland aboard the British cruiser Sheffield on Oct 18, 1942 for the invasion of North Africa at Algiers on Nov. 8, 1942. Participated in the Tunisian Campaign battles at Pichon, the Dasserine Pass, Fondouk - el - Aquareb, and Hill 609. Marched in the victory parade in Tumis on May 20, 1943.

Merlin L. Stratmoen

Landed at Salerno, Italy on Sept. 21, 1943. Participated in the three Volturno River crossings and the battles for the approaching leading to Cassino. Wounded in action at Montequilla, Italy.

Returned to combat duty at the Anzio beachhead in March 1944. Participated in the Anzio breakout, the liberation at Rome, the drive into Tuscanny, the capture of Leghorn, the Gothic Line engagements, the High Appennines defenses, the Battle for Bologna and the Po Valley Campaign, which culminated in the surrender of the German 34th Div., LXXV Korp with the US 34th Div. the first week in May, 1945 near the Swiss border.

Received a battlefield commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in September 1944, and reassigned from Co. "K" to Co. "M" 135th Inf. Returned to CONUS in June 1945 at Camp McCoy, WI. Recalled to active duty in October 1951 during the Korean Conflict. Assignments after recall include tours at Ft. Riley, KS, Austria, Korea, Japan, the Pentagon, Ft. Holobird, MD, Hawaii and Sandia Base, NM, a defense nuclear agency facility.

Retired from active duty on Jan. 31, 1968. Married Oct. 30, 1941. Have four sons, two daughters and nine grandchildren. Three sons are active duty Army officers and one grandson who is on active duty as an Air Force Officer.

RALPH D. STRATMOEN, LTC, USA Ret. (deceased), born May 2, 1920 at Dawson, MN. Enlisted in Co. "K", 135th Inf., MN N.G. in 1936. Entered on active duty as a squad leader with Co. "K" on Feb. 10, 1941 when the 34th Div. was federalized, and shipped to Camp Claiborne, LA. Participated in the 1941 Louisiana Maneuvers and later in providing security for oil refineries and storage facilities in the Galveston - Texas City, TX area immediately following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor.

Moved by rail from Camp Claiborne, LA to Ft. Dix, NJ in January 1942 to stage for overseas shipment to North Ireland. Departed Ft. Dix via New York on Apr. 30, 1942 aboard the British liner Aquitania. Arrived at Londonderry, North Ireland on May 12, 1942.

Departed North Ireland aboard the British cruiser Sheffield on Oct. 18, 1942 for the Invasion of North Africa at Algiers on Nov. 8, 1942. Participated in the Tunisian Campaign Battles at Pichon, the Kasserine Pass, Fondouk - el - Aquareb, and Hill 609. Wounded in action on Hill 609.

Landed at Salerno, Italy on Sept. 21, 1943. Participated in the three Volturno River crossings and battles for the approaches leading to Cassino.

Ralph D. Stratmoen

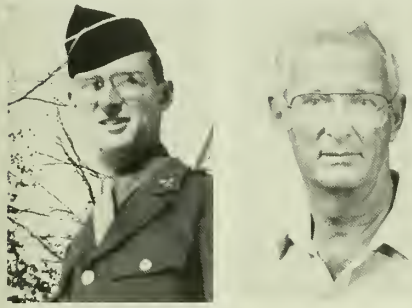
Received a battlefield commission as 2nd Lieutenant on Mar. 29, 1944 and reassigned from Co. "K" to Co. "M" 135th Inf. Landed at the Anzio Beachhead in March 1944. Participated in the Anzio breakout, the liberation of Rome, the drive into Tuscanny, the capture of Leghorn, the Gothic Line engagements, the High Appennines defenses, the battle for Bologna, and the Po Valley Campaign which culminated in the surrender of the German 34th Div. on LXXV Corp. to the U.S. 34th Inf. Div. the first week in May 1945, near the Swiss Border.

Returned to CONUS in June, 1945 and assigned IRTC duty at Camp Blanding, FL. Released from active duty in October 1945 at Camp McCoy, WI. Returned to active duty in 1948. Assignments thereafter include: Ft. Hood, TX commanding officer of "B" Co. 8th Cavalry Reg., 1st Cavalry Div. in Korea, Camp Roberts, CA, Oakland Army Base, CA and Hunter - Liggett Military Reservation, CA a Dept. of Defense Combat Development test facility.

Retired from active duty December 1962. Married September 1944. Had two sons and one daughter. Died Apr. 14, 1980.

HERMAN L. STRONG, born in Hatfield, MA Oct. 17, 1920. Selected for the 66th Inf. Div. April 1943. Basic training at Camp Blanding, FL then to Camp Robinson, AR, next to Camp Rucker, AL. July 1944 sent to Naples, Italy to Co. E, 133rd Inf., 34th Div. Fought with 34th into the Appennine Mountains.

Taken prisoner by Germans on Oct. 17, 1944, my 24th birthday. Taken to Bologna, Italy, then on to Stalag 7A in Mooseburg, Germany. December 1944 sent to work camp at Schmidtmullen, near Czechoslovakia.



Herman L. Strong

March 1945 Germans marched us south, walked 30 days then escaped with three others April 26th.

Eventually returned home and discharged November 1945. Remained in Hatfield, built and opened a restaurant. Later years opened Real Estate Office. Presently retired, living six months in St. Petersburg, FL and six months in Hatfield, MA. Married in 1951. Have one son and one daughter. Two grandchildren.

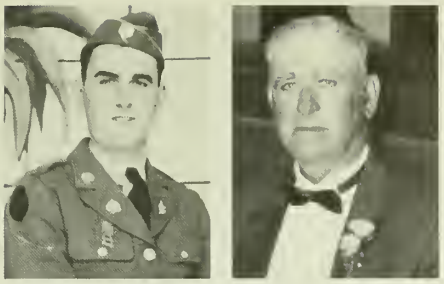
JACK H. STUART, born July 20, 1914, Bellevue, IA. Now living in Hanover, IL, since 1945.

Selected for the 168th, 34th Div. Co. K on Apr. 11, 1941. Sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO. Selected to Co. A at Camp Claiborne, LA - shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ. Shipped to Belfast, Ireland. Was at Enniskillen, Ireland. Was at Enniskillen, Glasgow, Inverrary, Clydebank, Scotland. Was Honor Guard at Belfast, Ireland. We shipped out of Clydebank, Scotland and landed at Algiers, Africa, Nov. 8, 1942. Battles at Tunis, Aine-Melela, Sinad Station, Fondouk. Was assigned to Co. I, as temporary replacements. Had charge of the Mortar Squad. On Mar. 30, 1943 we were captured at the Foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Fondouk, N. Africa, by the Germans. Was at Capua, Stalag VIIA, Mooseberg, Stalag IIIB, Fuerstenberg, Stalag IIIA, Lueckenwald, Germany, - Russians freed us on Apr. 22, 1945. Arrived at the American Lines at Dessau by foot on May 13, 1945. Shipped to LeHavre, France, Camp Ramp, Lucky Strike. Sailed on the U.S.S. Monticello to U.S.A. Sent to Camp Kilmer, NJ then to Jefferson Barracks, MO. Little Rock, AR and then Camp Chafee, AR. Received my Honorable Discharge on Aug. 18, 1945.

Medals I received: one Bronze Star, three Bronze Battlestars, one Bronze Arrowhead, one Combat Infantry Badge, one WWII Victory Medal, one Good Conduct Medal, one American Service Medal, one European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

I was with the Red Bull Insignia. 168th Inf. 34th Div. I did not get my Sergeant's Promotion nor the pay rate. It was a battlefield promotion, but Capt. Marnette was killed before the papers were approved and then I was captured with the rest of the boys. To this day I still have not received notice of the promotion. V.A. cancelled my $104.00 per month pension without notice.

JOHN J. SUCHOR, born May 2, 1919 at Denbigh, ND. Drafted into the 135th Inf. 3rd Bn. Co. M Camp Claihourne LA May 7, 1941. From Camp Claiborne to Ft. Dix I went to North Ireland for training to go to Africa where we engaged battle with Rommel. Shipped to Salerno, Italy, went all the way up through Italy until the war ended on my birthday.



John J. Suchor

The decorations I have are five Battle Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct, Distinguished Unit Citation Badge and Pearl Harbor Medal, Bronze Star Medal. Have a record over 500 combat days with the Red Bull. Credited with six Overseas Bars. Was discharged on June 27, 1945 at Ft. Snelling. Following discharge living on a farm at Denbigh, ND.

I also work at the Towner Nursery since 1966 as an equipment operator. Married in 1952, have six sons, four daughters, and eight grandchildren.

I was proud to serve my country with the Red Bull as Squad Leader Staff Sergeant.

JOHN SWEENEY, born in Philadelphia on Dec. 14, 1920. Drafted into U.S. Army on Nov. 20, 1942. Trained in Texas at Camp Maxey and Camp Swift (102nd Div.) until March 1944 when I was sent to Ft. Meade, MD as an infantry replacement. From there was shipped to Newport News port of embarkation, leaving on April 25th to sail to Oran, North Africa, arriving on May 10, 1944. Left Oran on May 25, 1944 to sail to Naples, Italy.

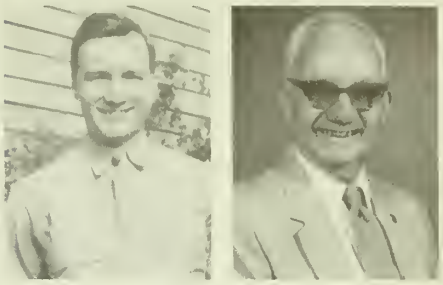
John Sweeney

Arrived in Naples and was sent to 34th Div. Replacement Center at Caserta. I was assigned to "B" Co. 34th Div. 135th Reg. on June 6, 1944. As the Division at that time was in the pursuit of the German Army from the Anzio Beachhead and was north of Rome Italy, then we did not catch up with the 135th Reg. until June 9th when they were in a rest area at Tarquinia. On June 23, 1944 I was in my first day of combat on the Italian front near Rosignano. While advancing to the front the night before, we were strafed by the Luftwaffe on Highway 65. I served in the 34th Div. until October 1945 when the high point men in the Division went home with the 34th Div. I was with the 88th Div. until Dec. 14, 1945 when I was sent home and discharged on Jan. 23, 1946.

I am retired from Conrail Railroad (Clerk) since July 1982. I am single and never married.

ERNEST C. TAYLOR, born May 5, 1914 at Richmond, VA. Drafted Oct. 7, 1941. Basic Training at Camp Croft, SC. After Basic Training Communication School (Message Center). Then to Ft. Dix and Co. A; transferred to Headquarters, 3rd Bn., 135th Inf.

The decorations I received are three Battle Stars (Tunisian, Naples-Foggia and Rome Arno Campaigns); Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct, Unit Citation G'021, Hq. 34th Div. June 11, 1943, EAMET Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal G077 Hq. 34th Inf Div. Aug. 14, 1944. Had over 400 combat days with the Red Bull Division; 35 months overseas. Was discharged on June 23, 1945 at Camp Gordon, GA.



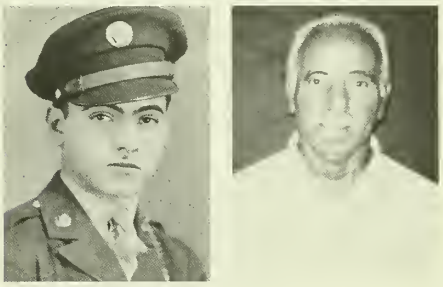
Ernest C. Taylor

Went back to work for the Post Office July 1, 1945. Married Apr. 6, 1946. Two daughters and six grandchildren. My first wife (Louise) died December 1985. November 1986 married Dorothy.

Received the first of five promotions in the Post Office in 1957. Retired in 1972 after 32 years in the Post Office. I was known as the Reb-Bul. Proud to have served my country as a member of the best Infantry Division in the ETO. The Red Bull Division.

Served as T-5 Bn. Code Clerk.

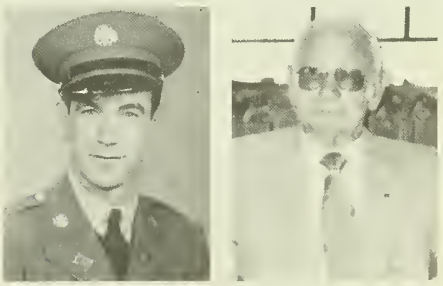
GENARO V. TEDESCO, born Brooklyn, NY Apr. 5, 1925. Enlisted U.S. Army 1942, went to Ft. Dix then to Camp Croft, SC, arrived North Africa and served with the 34th Div. 133rd Inf. Reg. Co. B, 1st machine gunner. Landed later at Salerno beachhead, Sept. 9, 1943. Wounded 1st time by hand grenade. Wounded later again Jan. 13, 1943 at Cassino area.



Genaro V. Tedesco

Still have three bullets in left hip. Spent 12 months at Valley Forge Hospital, Phoenixville, PA. Awarded Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Expert Riflemans Badge, six ribbons with two major Battle Stars. At the present time I am 100% disabled, now living in Tuckerton, NJ with wife Eleanor and two daughters, Jacqueline and Jennifer.

VIRGIL TILLMAN, born Dec. 21, 1917 in Sulphur Springs, IA. Was drafted in May 1941. Sent to Jefferson Barracks and then to Camp Claiborne, LA. Took my basic training with the Headquarters Co. 2nd Bn. 133rd Inf. 34th Div. Was shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ and



Virgil Tillman

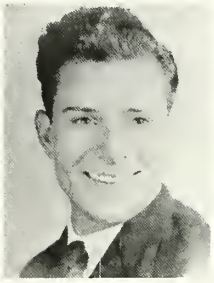
overseas to Ireland, England, Scotland, North Africa and then to Italy. I was wounded in July 1944 and sent back to the States. I served nearly another year in Camp Robinson, AR and was discharged from St. Louis, MO in June 1945.

Following discharge I worked 23 years as a salesman for an ice cream company and worked 13 years as a Park Superintendent for the city of Storm Lake, IA.

I was married in 1944 and have two daughters and four grandchildren. Presently retired and spending my winters in Arizona.

JONATHAN TOOLE, born Salley, SC Sept. 22, 1921. Drafted into Army Sept. 5, 1942, trained at Camp Croft, SC. Landed Casablanca, Africa March 1943. Joined 5th Army 34th Inf. Reg. 133rd Reg. Co. B as first replacements. Battled Hill 609. After Africa War ended, guarded German prisoners near Tunisia (sent to Sicily Island), Italy landed Sarlano Beach. Campaigns-Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, North Appennines Mountains, Po Valley. Went Private First Class to Staff Sergeant. EAMET Campaign Medal w/five Bronze Service Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart (wounded Italy Nov. 6, 1943).

36 months in service-29 overseas.



Jonathan Toole

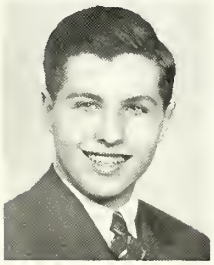
Discharged Ft. Bragg, NC Aug. 31, 1945 11:30.

Married Connie Baughman - one son, three daughters, three grandsons, one granddaughter.

Carpenter-farmer retired July 1977.

Father and grandfather (resided with family) deceased and buried while Jonathan Overseas.

MODESTO TRAPUZZANO, (Mod) born Washington, PA Feb. 8, 1925, drafted July 3, 1943, basic training Ft. McClelland, joined 34th February 1944 Co. B&D 168th Inf. Reg. received Bronze Star March 1944. Purple Heart May 1944, other ribbons, four major Battle Stars, discharged January 1947 Corporal, sent to Northeast border at wars end to protect Italian Venezia Giulia.



Modesto Trapuzzano

Met future wife Dana Flais, married July 6, 1947 two sons Joe, Frank, two grandsons Christopher, Andy. Became partner with brother Ted in Father's business retiring January, 1984, giving business to son Joe. Chief of Auxiliary Police 1952-1960, Civil Defense Director Washington, 1960-77 President Sons of Italy Local Lodge 1958-62, President Tri-State Chapter 34th Inf. Div. Assn. 1986-1987, delivered wheelchairs and hospital beds, etc. to the needy of community as a charity project.

WILLIAM D. TRUEAX, born Sept. 29, 1917 Wildwood, NJ. Inducted Sept. 16, 1941. Sent to Ft. George G. Meade, MD then Camp Croft, NC then to Ft. Dix, NJ. Sent to Ireland in the 135th Inf. Div., 1st Bn. Sent to Africa in the Battle of 609. Marched in Victory Parade in Tunisia.

Sent to Italy in battle until I contacted Yellow Fever. Served in the Battle of Cassino. Received Combat Infantry Badge.

William D. Trueax

Battles and Campaigns: Tunisian, Southern France, Naples-Foggia, Rome Arms Campaigns. Served in the combat zone for three years. Now living in Paulsboro, NJ with wife, Lillie and two grown sons.

JOSEPH A. TYDA, born in Chicago, IL. Was inducted in the Army June 1943. Took Infantry Basic training at CAMP BLANDING, FL. Was assigned to Heavy Weapons Co. After was shipped out to NAPLES, ITALY, then to a replacement center, from there was assigned to Heavy Weapons Comp. (L) 133rd Reg. 34th Div. Was promoted to P.F.C. We fought through the Appennine Mts., Po Valley etc. Was promoted to S/Sergeant. Was with occupation of the City of GORITZIA, ITALY till the 34th disbanded and was replaced by the 88th Inf. Div. (BLUE DEVILS). Served balance of time with L Co. 349th Reg. 88th Div.

Joseph A. Tyda

Was awarded a Unit Citation - Presidential Citation - three Bronze Stars and several other ribbons. Was discharged in June of 1946.

Worked till October 1980, for the Dept. of Mental Health, State of Michigan. After working for the State of Michigan for 40 years, decided to retire. Wife-Esther, two sons Kenneth and Joseph. One daughter-Gail. I have five grandchildren. Am at present living in Newberry, MI. In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

ROBERT R. VANDENBERG, Robert R. VanDenBerg, born Byron Center, MI, Nov. 30, 1921. Selected November 1942 at age 20, Basic Training, Little Rock, AR, and then assigned to Ft. Benning, GA, for Communications Training. Left the United States at Tech. 5th Grade June 1944 from Norfolk, VA, and sailed to Orans, North Africa. July 1944 left Algiers, North Africa, and sailed to Naples, Italy. In August 1944 joined the 168th Inf. Reg. Hqs. Co. assigned as jeep driver to string communication wire to Command Post. Served in the battles and campaigns of Rome - Arno, North Appennines Mountains, and the Po Valley.

Earned Combat Infantryman Badge, four other ribbons, and three major Battle Stars while serving 19

Robert R. VanDenBerg

months overseas. Promoted to TECH 4th Grade and transferred to service company as mechanic. Out December 1945. Wife, Wilma Agnes, two sons, two daughters, and 11 grandchildren. Retired factory supervisor in Grand Rapids, MI.

ANTHONDY J. VELLA, born May 27, 1924 in Sicily, Italy. I came to the U.S.A. in 1935. On Mar. 10, 1943 I entered in active service at Camp Crawford, SC. I became a naturalized citizen June 19, 1943 from U.S.A. Western District of South Carolina, Spartanburg, SC.

Anthony J. Vella

Joined Co. M 135th Inf. somewhere north of Naples in 1943 on Mount Cassino. I got trench feet. I was sent to North Africa to recuperate. Rejoined the Company in Naples when Vesuvius blew her stack. From there we went to Anzio, Rome and in the town of Cecina on July 2, 1944, I was wounded.

Now I am retired and taking life easy.

JAMES R. VIERS, born Dec. 31, 1923 in Williamsburg, WV. Joined the Army February 1943 and took basic training at Ft. Sill, OK. Sent to North Africa as a replacement and was assigned to B Btry. 185th Arty. 34th Inf. Div. at Salerno, Italy. Was with the Division all the way through Italy; came back with the Division in November 1945. Discharged at Ft. Meade, MD in November 1945.

James R. Viers

Married in 1949, have two children and one grandchild. Worked for General Motors in Baltimore, MD for 34 years. Retired in 1981. Presently reside at 4304 Northcliff Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057.

THEODORE F. WAGNER, I was born Apr. 7, 1921 in Madison, SD. Following graduation from high

school there in 1939, I joined Co. "A" 109th Engrs. (C) of the 34th Div.

In January 1941, I went to the West Point Preparatory School at Ft. Snelling, MN until March 1941. Thus, I was already on active duty when the 34th Div. was Federalized Feb. 10, 1941. When the prep school ended I joined my old outfit, Co. "A" 109th Engrs. (C) at Camp Claiborne, LA for the maneuvers of 1941. In September 1941, I was sent to the 4th Corps Area West Point Preparatory School at Ft. McPherson, GA until the school ended March 1942. While at Ft. McPherson, I remained a part of the 34th Div. With the end of school, I was assigned to the 43rd Inf. Div. - a National Guard Div. from the New England States. The 34th Div., meanwhile, had gone overseas and I never had the priviledge of rejoining my original unit again. I am very proud to have been an early soldier in the famous 34th Div.

Later, after my graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, I served in Europe.

LEONARD WALLENMEYER, (WALLY), born Jamestown, MO Feb. 12, 1917. Inducted Apr. 15, 1941. Assigned to 34th Div., Co. "C" 109th Medical Bn. on Apr. 22, 1941 at Claiborne, LA to Ft. Dix, NJ Jan. 6, 1942. To North Ireland Feb. 17, 1942, to Killbride, Scotland Aug. 21, 1942. Left Scotland Oct. 15, 1942 aboard ship until Nov. 8, 1942, invaded North Africa at Cheragas, Algeria.

Leonard Wallenmeyer

To battle front in Tunisia, Faid Pass Feb. 1, 1943, taken captive Feb. 14, 1943. Remained captive until Apr. 22, 1945 - 26 months, 7 days as P.O.W. Home June 11, 1945, married July 22, 1945, wife Helen, two children, seven grandchildren.

Rank T5 Decorations - American Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, EAME Service Ribbon, and three Bronze Stars.

Retired from United States Postal Service June 30, 1984, was a Rural Route carrier.

GERALD W. WALLIS, born May 24, 1916, Pisgah, IA. Entered the Army on May 20, 1941. Received basic training at Camp Claiborne, Co. C 168th Inf. Was transferred to 133rd Co. C. Went to Ireland with 1st Bn., 133rd. While in Ireland transferred to Headquarters 133rd. Here I worked with communications. Following the African Campaign was transferred to the 3rd Bn. Hqs and went to Italy. The war ended as we reached the Swiss Border.

Gerald W. Wallis

Received Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal and Bronze Star.

Having had several major operations in the last five years, I am a retired farmer and live near Mondamin, IA. Wife, Maxine; three daughters and one son, two grandchildren.

ROBERT N. WALLWORTH, born Paterson, NJ, Mar. 30, 1925. Joined Army May 5, 1943 at Ft. Dix, NJ. Took Infantry Basic at Camp Shelby, MS with C-272, 69th Div. Trained as a mortar gunner. Joined A Co. 168th Inf. 34th Div. on Jan. 9, 1944 at Cevarro, Italy. Served first in mortar squad and later as a runner for the Weapons Platoon. Wounded at Cassino. Rejoined A Co. before 34th was sent to Anzio. Wounded October 5th South of Bologna. Reclassified and transferred to 12th Air Force Hqs. in Florence and assigned to an IBM Mobile Record Unit. Was part of group that developed the Point System for sending GIs home.

Robert N. Wallworth

Has Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and three other ribbons with five Battle Stars, 24 months overseas. Returned to U.S. on Dec. 5th, 1945. Wife, Marta, two sons. Retired after 29 years as an electronic engineer with IBM in San Jose, CA.

JOHN E. WASKO, born in Riverseam, WV, Dec. 11, 1924. Drafted out of Senior Class, Homer City, PA High School in May, 1943. Basic Infantry Training Camp Wheeler, GA. Onto Camp Patrick Henry and sailed from Newport News, VA aboard the troopship Empress of Scotland, Nov. 18, 1943. Disembarked Casablanca Nov. 29, 1943. Fourty and Eight across Africa to Oran and Bizzarte, then sailed to Naples, assigned to 34th Div. and joined "C" Co. 168th Inf. Reg. Jan. 10, 1944; wounded Jan. 28, 1944 and sailed from Naples aboard hospital ship Chateau Thereay Apr. 29, 1944. After treatment and convalescence at Kennedy and Valley Forge General Hospitals, returned to duty December 1944. Discharged Mar. 28, 1946.

John E. Wasko

Wife, Dorothy, three sons and one daughter, three grandchildren. Retired, Labor Analyst, after 34 years Cleveland Pneumatic Co. Now residing in Maple Heights, OH.

SYLVESTER J. WEIGEL, born Topeka, KS, Apr. 30, 1919. Joined National Guard Co. G 135th Inf. 34th Div. to Camp Claiborne, LA as "Mortarman" Feb. 25, 1941. To Ft. Dix, NJ as 4th Spec. (2nd Cook) Jan. 8, 1942.

On "Aquitania" Apr. 30, 1942 to N Ireland, arrived ETO. Stationed outside Enniskillen. On "Dutchess of York" Dec. 9, 1942 to Oran, Algiers, N Africa arrived NATO. To Salerno, Italy Sept. 15, 1943, arrived MTO.

Battles: Tunisia - Naples - Foggia

After Santa Maria to Naples Hospital, two days. Reclassified to Bari, Italy. To USA Oct. 21, 1944, arrived NATUSA Hqs. New Orleans, LA. Demobilized Dec. 15, 1944. To Ashburn General Hospital, McKinney, TX "Cook" Dec. 25, 1944. Discharged Camp McCoy, WI Aug. 29, 1945.

Schools attended Cook Co. #4 - 1942.

Sylvester J. Weigel

Have five overseas Service Bars, also battle ribbons. 30 months overseas. Re-enlisted National Guards Oct. 26, 1947 - Jan. 1, 1951 "Mess Steward" SFC before Korea.

Re-enlisted National Guard. Retired - 20 years, E7 "Mess Sergeant" May 1, 1979. Retired - Wilson and Co. Jan. 1, 1980.

Family: wife, Byrdie - three children - six grandchildren.

Hobbies: Bartending and travel: June 1975 to Rome - Gen. Glark's 5th Army reunion - dedicated American Cemetery Nattuna Beach.

DELANE WHEELER, born Mar. 8, 1914, Nowlin, SD. Active service Mar. 24, 1941 Ft. Snelling, MN. Assigned to Medical Detachment, 135th Inf., Reg. 34th Div., Camp Claiborne, LA, to Ft. Dix, NJ. Aid man 135th Inf., transferred to Medical Detachment Special Troops, aid man 34th Signal Company.

Departed from New York Apr. 3, 1942 to E.T.O. North Ireland, arriving May 13, 1942. Departed E.T.O. from Liverpool, England Dec. 23, 1942 arriving N.A.T.O. Jan. 3, 1943 Oran, North Africa. Departed N.A.T.O. to M.T.O. Arriving Sept. 21, 1943. Departed M.T.O. Naples July 8, 1945, arriving U.S. July 18, 1945. Discharged Ft. Snelling Sgt. Continental service 1 year, 1 month, 13 days. Foreign service: 3 years, 2 months, 19 days.

Delane Wheeler

Battles: Campaigns - Tunisia, Naples, Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Appennines, Po Valley. European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal, six overseas Service Bars, Medical Badge, E.A.M.E. Campaign w/five Bronze Service Stars. Married, two children, nine grandchildren. Retired.

LAURENCE WHITE, born Nov. 19, 1922 in State College, PA. Enlisted in the Army in October 1942.

Had basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA in June-August 1943. Was shipped overseas in November 1943 and assigned as a replacement to the weapons platoon of Co. "C", 135th Inf. Reg. of the 34th Div. in Italy in December 1943.

Laurence White

Fought in the battles of the Rapido River, Cassino, Anzio and the Northern Appennines.

Am holder of the Bronze Medal.

Was discharged from the service at Camp Meade, MD in 1945.

Am presently completing my 32nd year working for Penn State University at University Park, PA.

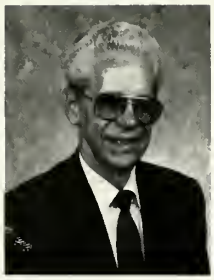
ARTHUR WILKENS, born Oct. 23, 1918 near West Bend, WI. Entered service Aug. 4, 1942 with Co. B 133rd Inf. Reg. as a Light Machine Gunner. I trained in North Carolina and at Baker's Field, CA. I did Guard Duty for Gen. Eisenhower in Africa before being shipped to Nettuno. I lost my leg on the night of Oct. 4, 1944 during heavy fighting and loss of men, in a little village of Cedricchia, Italy. I was taken to a temporary hospital in a school and later taken to a hospital in Florence. I came back to the States Nov. 15, 1944. I was at McClusky General Hospital in Temple, TX until I was discharged May 25, 1945.

Arthur Wilkens

Following discharge, I was an in-plant offset press operator at the West Bend Co. in West Bend, WI for over 30 years. Presently I am retired, married, have four daughters and three sons and eight grandchildren.

I and my wife went to Switzerland two years ago to visit our daughter and son-in-law. We located the village where I was wounded and visited the military cemeteries in Italy. I was very pleased to see how well they are kept up.

WALLACE R. WILKES, (TEX), born Feb. 16, 1924, Ft. Worth, TX. Entered National Guard, 36th Div., 144th Inf., 1939. Inducted into Federal Service November 1940 and stationed at Camp Bowie, Brownwood, TX. December 9, 1941, 144th Inf. was detached from 36th Div. and sent to West Coast to guard against possible invasion by the Japanese. Later the 144th was shipped to the Carolinas to patrol the beaches, then to Camp Van Dorn, MS. A large number of us was transported to Africa as replacements and then to Italy where I joined Co. K, 168th Inf., south of Naples. Continued with Co. K through Italy to the Po River Crossing. Wounded on Patrol duty, March 1945.



Wallace R. Wilkes

Returned to United States for discharge at Ft. Sam Houston, TX, Sept. 5, 1945. Following discharge worked 30 years in Automotive, 10 years in Hardware. Presently retired. Married, two daughters, six grandchildren and one great grandson.

GALE D. WILKINS, born Malta, OH, Dec. 11, 1919. Inducted October 1941 at Ft. Hayes. Trained at Camp Wheeler, GA then joined 168th Inf. at Ft. Dix, NJ. Sent to Ireland and Scotland for invasion training. Landed with C Co. in Algiers in November 1942. Left C Co. February 1943 transferred to L Co. 3rd Bn. after Kasserine. Wounded and captured Mar. 27, 1943 at Fondouk Pass. Liberated May 1, 1945. Taken to Lucky Strike, France then flown to Southampton, England, next to Camp Shanks, NY and on to Ft. Dix, NJ and Camp Atterbury, IN. Discharged Sept. 25, 1945.

Gale D. Wilkins

Has Purple Heart, Bronze Star with two arrowheads, 37 months overseas. Wife, Ellen, one daughter and one son. Retired now from Brockway Glass Company.

RICHARD F. WILKINSON, born Toano, VA, Feb. 4, 1921. Joined Co. "C", 133rd Inf. as Platoon Leader in September 1942. Entered combat in Tunisia in February 1943. Commanded Co. "C" most of 1943-1944. Invaded Italy at Salerno. Wounded at Cassino. Commanded 1st Bn., 133rd Inf. at Mt. Venere; sent Co. "C" to encircle enemy paratroopers in a midnight assault. This action gave the 1st Bn. the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC); same as each soldier receiving the Distinguished Service Cross.

Richard F. Wilkinson

Stayed in Regular Army for 30 years. Retired as Colonel in 1972. Has Silver Star, Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars with Valor, PUC, LOM, and others. Wife, Margaret, two sons, two daughters, four grandchildren. Has a farm in Williamsburg, VA.

FRANK P. WILLIAMS, born Feb. 28, 1909 in Broad Head, WI. Moved to Iowa in 1910. Graduated from Dow City, Iowa High School in 1925.

Enlisted in Hg Co. 1st Bn. 168th Inf. 34th Div. June, 1927, having, along with two others taking Electric Engineering, been recruited to help Lt. Harry Stedman put together a communications platoon.

January, 1928 all of the checks written for second semester of college bounced because of bank failure. Told Lt. Stedman who was an alumni of the same university that I would have to drop out of school. He arranged a job working nights for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company so I didn't drop out. As a result of this, I stayed with both the Guard and the Telephone Company until mandatory retirement.

This connection, and a U.S. law, permitted me to be every enlisted grade Pvt. to M. Sergeant twice. I went up to M. Sergeant and then had to miss a camp because of a telephone dial conversion which busted me back to Private. I had to work my way back up to M. Sergeant. While doing this, I had received a commission in the Reserve of 2nd Lieutenant and 1st Lieutenant, but a law change made me resign them to stay in the National Guard.

1936 - became a 2nd Lieutenant 67th Brigade, Communications Officer.

1940 - became a 1st Lieutenant 168th Inf., Communications Officer.

1940 - became a Captain Commander, Hq. Co. 168th Inf.

January, 1941 - went on active duty to Camp Claiborne, LA.

May 1941 - became S-2 of 168th Inf.

September, 1941 - went to advance course at the Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA, where I was Pearl Harbor Day.

December, 1941 - back to Camp Claiborne.

January, 1942 - went to Ft. Dix, NJ as the 168th Inf. was selected to be the first Army unit to be sent to Europe. Did not sail until February 19th, as our original transport ship was sunk coming after us from Europe.

We had vehicles to be loaded at New York that had been on maneuvers in Louisiana. The S-4 of the 168th Inf. found a train coming into the port loaded with new jeeps and two and one-half ton trucks. He told the dock workers to load them on the Duchess of Athol, the 168th transport. He was not caught until they were loaded so they let the 168th Inf. have the new vehicles.

We were first stationed at Coleraine, then moved to Enniskillen. As S-2, I met with southern Ireland military to exchange information. They kept us up to date on the German spies who were in their country legally.

In the Spring of 1942, I became a Major and S-3 of the 168th when it was selected to be the American unit to land in Africa with the British First Army so it would be a joint operation. It became a much bigger operation, including the landings in Morocco, because less ships had been sunk.

As S-3, I took a group of plans and training officers to Scotland to work out a joint training program with the British. Then Col. Iron Mike O'Daniel, the American landings authority, arrived and we worked together on the training program.

We had one major difference on one item. We were going in with the British Navy, using their landing craft which carried 18 enlisted men in each. We had 12-man squads and he wanted three half squads in each boat. I thought there would be better command if we had a squad and a half in each boat. We practiced that way, and we landed that way at Algiers, even though Iron Mike had replaced Col. Folson Everest as Regimental Commander.

Iron Mike was one of six regular Army officers ordered to replace National Guard, one of whom was Maj. Frank Williams (me). But, in spite of our differences, he got it cancelled so I went to North Africa on the landing. I also spent three weeks commuting between 168th HQ in Scotland and Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's HQ in London, finalizing the invasion plans.

On the way to North Africa on a Royal Navy Ship, we went far enough west in the Atlantic to avoid German subs. As we made the final turn to Gibralter, the ship's radio, tuned to a London station, played the song "The Yanks Are Coming" and dedicated it to Gibralter. It shook everyone on board, but may have helped the job Gen. Clark had done to make the Germans think we were going to land on the west coast of Africa, south of Morocco. They moved their troops out of the Algiers area so even though the Royal Navy landed us on the wrong beach, it went beautifully.

After the landing, Iron Mike O'Daniel became a Brig. General and was given the job of setting up an invasion training center to plan and train for invading Sicily and Italy.

My relation with the 34th Inf. Div. in WWII was limited after the landing, as much to my surprise Iron Mike took me with him to the invasion training center. There I worked with Gen. Patton and Gen. Mark Clark and their troops for the invasion of Sicily and Italy, which included a stop at the training center by the 34th Div. They were the only unit that set rules that were obeyed when on leave in Oran. Everyone else required shirts to be buttoned and sleeves also buttoned with the MP's picking up violators, of which there were hundreds. The 34th Div. rules were top button on shirt must not be buttoned and sleeves rolled up to the elbows. Every one was happy.

March, 1943 - promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

The next contact with 34th Div. was when I was in charge of the build-up for Fifth Army after the Salerno Landings. The 34th was scheduled to land late enough so they were not scheduled to use assault landing craft. More Lst's survived the landing, so on their turn around I had the 151st field unit from the 34th Div. prepared to land and start firing immediately. The report was that this was a major help and may have saved the invasion.

History books give credit to the 34th Div. units for taking Cassino but they say that there were insufficient reserves available, which is true. However, they did not say a New Zealand unit ordered in to help was 24 hours late and by that time 34th Div. units had to withdraw.

My connection with Cassino was that I was helping put the Anzio landing plans together, but it was tied to an attack coming from Cassino. So, Anzio was cancelled as it had no port facilities to handle the build-up if it and the Cassino troops were slow converging.

The Anzio landings were reinstated by order of Winston Churchill because he wanted to keep as many German troops in Italy until after the Normandy crossing as possible.

I did the new Anzio plans and spent four hours with Churchill getting British Army and Navy concessions in order to do it. We needed Royal Navy LST, and 350 British three ton trucks to work the U.S. port at Naples, since Anzio had no port. The LST's and American four wheel drive trucks to drive off beaches were required as a supply route.

Anzio was a success, but would have been a greater one if reserves to help the 34th Div. had arrived on time, or the weather had been good enough to permit air cover when we did do it. And, if the break-out attack had been made an hour early, ahead of the one launched on U.S. by the Germans.

My last WWII contact with the 34th Div. was at the attack of the hills overlooking the Po Valley. The 34th Div. was on the left of the road, took the pass when the two divisions on the right were supposed to, and I watched the operation.

I did the Po River crossing plans which were executed the next spring. By then I had been transferred to the Pacific and became a Colonel as Military Operations Officer on Admiral Turner's staff. He was the amphibious force commander in the Pacific.

When the 34th Div. was re-activated after WW II I became Chief of Staff Assistant Division Commander and Division Commander. I retired as a Major General and also served one year as president of the 34th Inf. Div. Assn.

The 34th Div. ceased to exist because the Nebraska Brigade was called up for Vietnam and the Iowa Brigade joined a Minnesota National Guard Div. it had been associated with before and through WWII. *(See photo on page 80)*

NOEL C. WILLIAMS, was born Sept. 8, 1916 in Alpena, AR. Drafted Oct. 10, 1941, Washington, DC. Basic Camp Croft, SC. Assigned 135th Inf. Reg. 34th Div. Ft. Dix, NJ with 34th Div. to Anzio, Italy. Injured in combat Nov. 20, 1943. Spent three months in hospital. Returned to States June 1944 and spent remaining time at Camp Barkley and Ft. Bliss, TX. Discharged June 18, 1945.

Retired from Post Office in August 1979 after 42 years of government service. In 1980 came to Eureka, KS to care for wife's parents. Been employed part-time maintenance in nursing home. Married July 1944; daughter and son; no grandchildren.

Noel C. Williams

One item: First Volturno River with ropes; water was deep, mined banks - the works. Our objective, a hill. We were pinned down. When we reached our objective about daybreak, there waiting was Supply and Mess Sergeant who crossed river at a different location in a Jeep with water knee-deep—no mines or gunfire.

CLETUS H. WILLKOM, born in Boyd, WI on Feb. 5, 1921. Joined 133rd Inf. at Anzio in May 1944, Co. K. Then transferred to "L" Co. 133. Received Bronze Star at Cecina, and Purple Heart at Mt. Belmonte. Back to the States with the 34th in November 1945.

Cletus H. Willkom

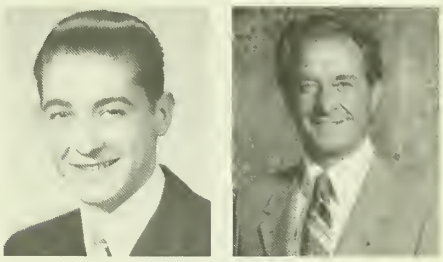
Mae and I have 7 children, 16 grandchildren. We are now living in Cadott, WI.

LESLIE E. WILSON, born Oct. 8, 1918 at Shenandoah, IA. Was a member of Co. E 168th Inf. 34th Div. Inducted into Federal Service Jan. 10, 1941. Left March 1st for Camp Claiborne, LA. Transferred to Hq. Co. and was stationed there until Jan. 6, 1942. Shipped to Ft. Dix, NJ. Shipped out Jan. 18, 1942 to Belfast, No. Ireland. Stationed in British Isles until October 26th, sailed for North Africa for mission White Beach. On to Algiers, then to Casserine and Faid Passes. Captured by Rommel Feb. 17, 1943. Went to Italy, then to several Stalags in Germany. P.O.W. 27 months. Liberated May 7, 1945. Then to Camp Lucky Strike, France. On to London and Glasgow. Boarded Queen Elizabeth. Arrived New York Harbor June 29, 1945. Discharged Sept. 18, 1945 Camp Atterbury, IN. Given credit for 43 months overseas duty.

Leslie E. Wilson

Following discharge, have lived in Idaho. Employed by United States Post Office Department 32 years. Retired in 1978. Married in 1945, no children.

MARTIN W. WINKLE, born Monaca, PA, Apr. 19, 1925. Graduated high school, May, 1943; entered Army, July 1943. Was sent to Camp Meade, then to Camp Wheeler, GA, for basic. Left Camp Patrick Henry, February 1944; landed Casablanca; Box Car 40&8 to Oran; from there to Naples. Was assigned to I Co., 133rd Inf. as a machine gunner; went to Anzio. Was transferred to G Co., 133rd Inf. Was assigned to 3rd Platoon as scout. Wounded at Cecina, sent to hospital in Naples, rejoined G Co. in October. Was offered assistant squad leader, but decided after a few weeks to become 300 radio operator in G Co. Headquarters section.



Martin W. Winkle

Have Combat Infantry Badge, three Battles Stars, Purple Heart, and three other ribbons. Discharged in 1945. Now an electrician.

ARTHUR J. YOUNG, born July 3, 1923 in Flushing, NY. Selected for service Jan. 14, 1943, went to Ft. McCullun for basic training. Shipped to New Port News, VA. Transferred to North Africa for placement. Assigned to "F" Co., 135th Reg. Trained with 1st Armd. Div. Shipped to Salerno, Italy. I went as far as Valletri, received leg wound.

Arthur J. Young

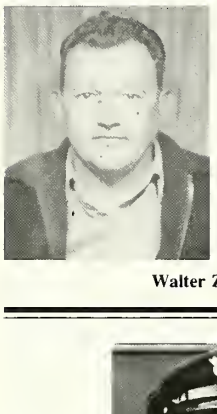
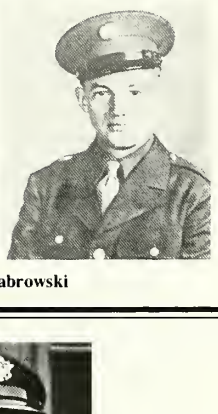
Returned to duty until finish of conflict. Was discharged in Nov. 8, 1945. Following discharge, worked automobile line for nine years, then 32 years in aerospace programs and am still employed. Married in 1949, have one son.

ELZY L. YOUNGKIN, was born June 12, 1920 in Kellogg, IA; lived most of years in Newton and

Monroe, IA. Joined the National Guard out of Boone, IA in February 1941. Sent to Camp Claiborne, LA F Btry. Reorganized to Btry. B - 185th Field Arty. Bn. Then to Ft. Dix, NJ. From Ft. Dix to Ireland; Ireland to Africa; Africa to Italy. Returned home and discharged June 22, 1945; credit for 37 months, 18 days overseas and 555 days on front line.

Worked on farm till married in 1949. Then worked for a trucking firm for 33-1/2 years before retiring in 1982. I live in Des Moines, IA and we have two daughters.

WALTER ZABROWSKI, born June 1, 1919. I was drafted Jan. 9, 1943. I went to New Cumberland, PA by train on my first leg, then to Greenville, PA. Next stop was Ft. McClellan, AL for Basic Training. Was trained on heavy weapons, machine guns and mortars (81mm). After Basic Training I was shipped to Patrick Henry, where I boarded the U.S.S. West Point for Casablanca, Africa.

Walter Zabrowski

From there we went to Oran, Algiers, Biserte, and Tunis. They were mopping up in Sicily when I boarded the LST's for my combat journey to Italy.

We landed below Naples where I joined the 34th Div. I was assigned to the 135th Reg. HQ Co. as a Lineman Wire Communications to the Line Companies. We were #1.

I participated in four major battles. Received a Campaign Ribbon with four Bronze Stars, Infantry Combat Badge and other Medals, five Hash Marks, French Citation and Medal for capturing the German 34th Div. I was discharged in November 1945. Thank God!

After discharge I worked in the coal mines, construction and was an instructor on heavy equipment for 21 years. I retired in 1980 at age 62. I had three operations and heart attack.

I am married to Rose, my wife of 40 years. We have three children and four grandchildren.

MARTIN F. ZETWICK, born May 6, 1918. Entered military service with the 44th Inf. Div. Sept. 15, 1940. Went overseas with the 1st Engineers Amphibian Brigade Aug. 6, 1942. Attached to the 1st Inf. Div. in Scotland. Made assault landing in Arzew, Algeria Nov. 8, 1942. Made assault landing in Gela, Sicily July 10, 1943. Assault landing Salerno, Italy Sept. 9, 1943.

Transferred to the 34th Inf. Div Nov. 18, 1943 at Celli, Italy. Relieved from 34th Inf. Div. May 30, 1945. Waiting to be sent back to the U.S. for discharge. From Cuneo, Italy.

Personal Notes: Co. A 109th Engineers Combat.

I often remember my squad leader Sgt. J. Pauley. He watched over us like a mother hen. I remember my platoon sergeant. He was wounded and received a battlefield commission at Anzio. I remember my platoon leader who went through the whole campaign only to be wounded by a "dud" detonator while giving a lecture to the 442nd Inf. Reg., after the war was over. I remember our company commander who always wanted volunteers for reconnaissance patrols. I think the real reason was for picking up souvenirs. Last but not least was our battalion commander. He always came up to our forward position where he would thank us for doing our job in supporting the infantry.

I am now retired from working. My hobby is collecting military books.

NO NAME, born Sept. 1, 1917 in Minot, ND. Father was a barber. We moved to Minnesota in 1919. Was drafted in 1942 and took my training in Arkansas and the Carolinas. I joined Co. E 168th Inf. in the early days of the African Conflict. Was a rifleman and later a mortar gunner. Was engaged in most of the major battles.

After the African conflict we were sent to Italy and almost went the entire way to Austria. Was wounded on Nov. 8, 1943, then hospitalized for three months. A shortage of replacements brought me back to the unit. My name came up for rotation in spring. The day I departed from the outfit the 4th German Div. surrendered to the 34th Div. Was discharged June 9, 1945 - served for 36 months.

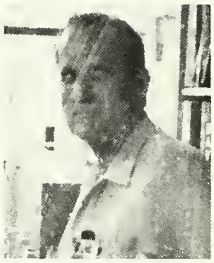
After returning home went back to farming and married. Have three sons and five grandchildren.

Joseph Eaton

James A. Luttrell

Frank Williams

Leslie J. Lempke



Oscar J. Marchand

T.A. Thomas

Wilburt Lempke

Wilbur E. McMurty

Martin Zeturick

— Additional Notes —

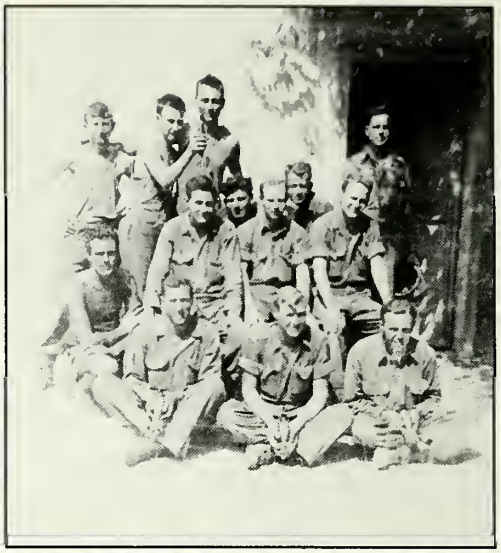
Corp. Jim Case of Benton Harbor, Michigan and Sgt. Reg Clark of Nutley, New Jersey both of Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 135th Inf. looking out over the bay of Naples, Italy, dreaming of the day when they would return to the U.S.A. (Courtesy of Reginald R. Clark)

34th INFANTRY PICTORIAL REVIEW

34th Infantryman reloading mortar shell

Left to right unknown, Poole, Barday, Sovik, Kendall, Haguard, Wolf, Carter, unknown

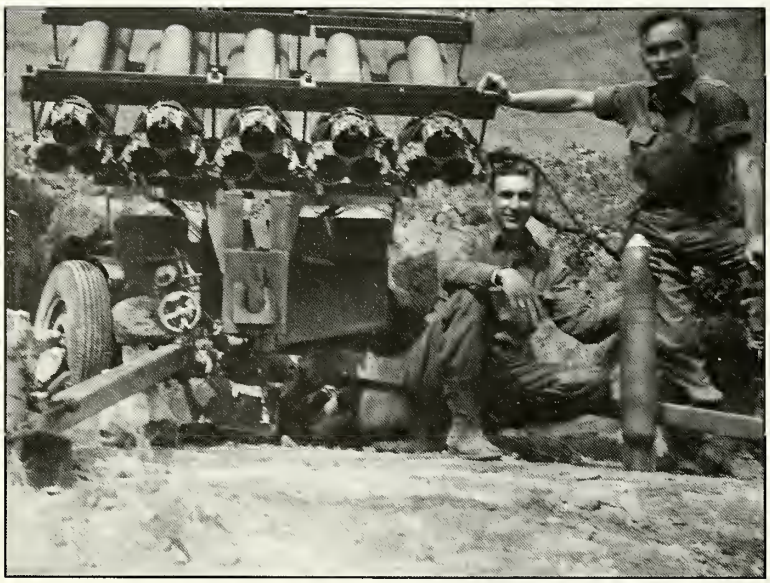
Resting before going in to take Bologna



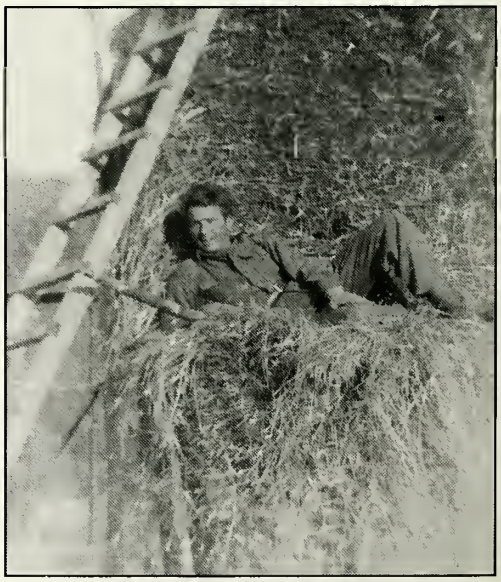
"B" Company 135 Regt. 4th Platoons (Weapons) Machine Gun and Mortar. Front Row: Macleish, Campbell, Werner. Second Row: Coker, Marshall. Third Row: Jones, Heddy, Crankovitch, Barnes, Burbage.

Taken around Leghom Italy

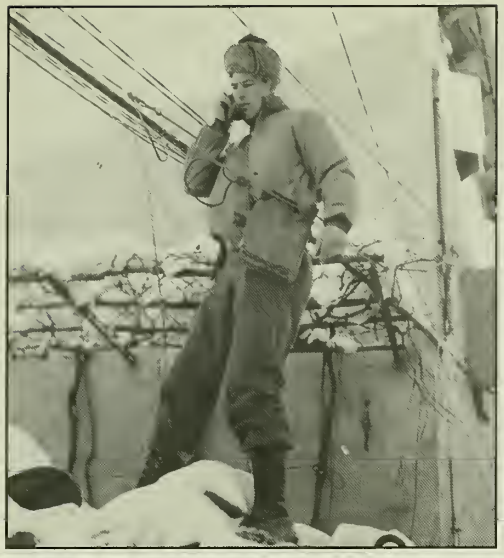
Robert A. Knie Sept. 1942



April May 1945 on left William Orwat and right Jack Herlihy, 4.5 Rockets.



In Italy 1944 34th Infantryman takes a break

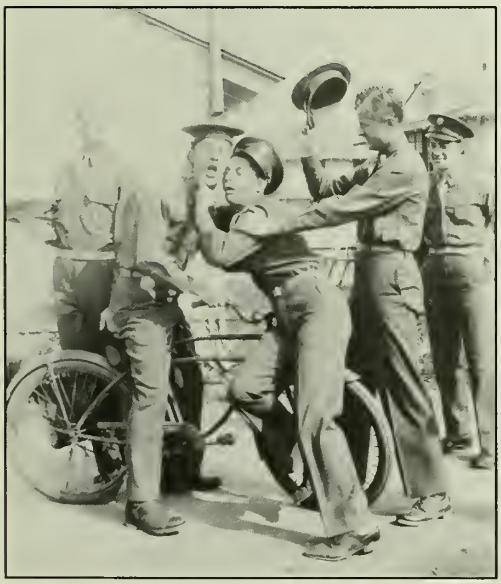


9 January 1945 Fifth Army, San Benedetto Area Italy T/4 Robert Bollinger from Carlisle, PA checks telephone line for the 34th Recon., 34th Div. Photo by Schmidt.

Lt. Charles Snowden & Lt. Harry Gallman

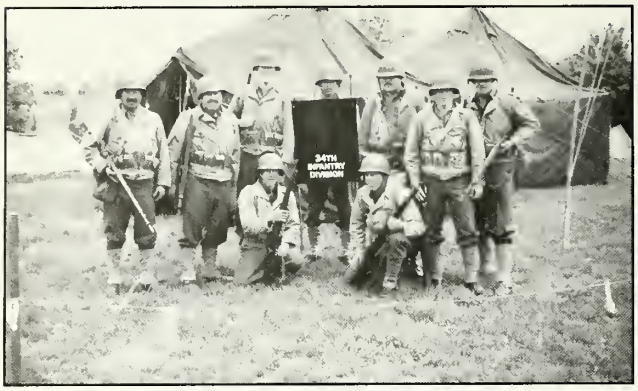
Left to Right Curtis O'Shell, Joe Pendergast, unknown, unknown

From left to right Major Arthur Peterson, John Dlyon, Capt. Bukler, Lt. Col. Butler, Lt. Col. Harvey.



Some "Nuts"

Carl McHenry Lund and members of A.T. Co. 133rd Inf. 34th Div. in Italy.



34th Division Reenactment men Memorial Day Weekend 1984 Seven Acres

Memorial Day Weekend 1985, "ready for inspection"

Memorial Day Weekend 1985 group photo

National Battle October 1985 Fort Campbell, Kentucky

1985 Memorial Day Weekend, Reenactment Battle getting ready to start

Reenactment soldier displaying Company Flag

Fort Valley Ski Lodge February 1988

Fort Valley Ski Lodge, capturing German reenactment soldier

Seven Acres Village & Museum reenactment action.

Seven Acres Village & Museum 34th Inf. reenactment men on the offensive

P.F.C. Ed Earl, 34th Div. B.A.R. Man, advances down road with 101st Airborne personnel. Ft. Campbell Reenactment, 1985 note attention to detail. Photo by Greg Russell

Top left: Members of the 34th Infantry proudly display *The Stars and Stripes* realizing they will soon get to go home. (Courtesy of C.W. Eberle) Bottom left: 1st Bn. 135th Inf., 34th Div. in San Remo Italy 1945 after VE Day. (Courtesy of James G. Mottes) Part of Co. B, 109th Engineers in Northern Italy waiting to go home. (Courtesy of Woodrow E. Anderson)

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